

Submitter: Denice Searcy
On Behalf Of: THE BIG KAHUNA OF ALL POWER GRABS
Committee: Senate Committee On Rules
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB3390
NO on HB 3390 A

THIS IS A POWER GRAB, THE "BIG KAHUNA" OF ALL POWER GRABS. THIS IS WRONG!!

Current processes are designed to provide accurate and impartial information to voters. Replacing these processes with the Legislature writing its own ballot titles and explanatory statements would remove impartiality and thus place accuracy into question. The Legislature would have a very strong incentive to favorably portray the measures it places on the ballot and to criticize any referendum that challenges a statute it has enacted. This can only erode the confidence of voters in the accuracy and impartiality of these statements in the Voters' Pamphlet--and on the ballot itself (the ballot title caption and yes/no statements).

Oregon law already allows the Legislature to place in the Voters' Pamphlet a 325-word statement in favor of any measure it refers to voters. ORS 251.245. HB 3390 A allows 2 the Legislature to write the ballot title and the explanatory statement and the legislative statement in support for every referral and every referendum stemming from the 2025 session.

Further, HB 3390 A requires that any committee of legislators writing ballot titles and/or explanatory statements must be comprised 2/3 of members of the majority party in each chamber, minimizing the voice of the minority party. We urge rejection of HB 3390 A. Other than the -2 amendment, the bill is a placeholder that needs no further consideration.

To the extent that the public perceives the Legislature as being unduly influenced by the big money special interest groups that help fund their campaigns, replacing the current provisions with those of HB 3390 A would remove the impartiality of the current system and thus risk eroding the confidence of voters in the accuracy and impartiality of the information about bills in the Voters' Pamphlet.

At this time, I urge no further consideration of 3309 A as written. PLEASE VOTE NO ON HB 3390-2

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