

House Bill 2895

Sponsored by Representative CANNON, Senator WHITSETT; Representatives BAILEY, BUCKLEY, CLEM, D EDWARDS, GARRARD, GARRETT, GREENLICK, KOMP, NATHANSON, OLSON, SCHAUFLE, SHIELDS, J SMITH, VANORMAN, WITT, Senators BURDICK, DEVLIN, DINGFELDER, MONNES ANDERSON, MONROE, MORRISETTE, MORSE, WALKER

SUMMARY

The following summary is not prepared by the sponsors of the measure and is not a part of the body thereof subject to consideration by the Legislative Assembly. It is an editor's brief statement of the essential features of the measure **as introduced**.

Allows Secretary of State to designate organizations to establish citizen panels to review and create statements on each initiated state measure. Directs secretary to print statements in voters' pamphlet.

Declares emergency, effective on passage.

A BILL FOR AN ACT

1
2 Relating to state measures; creating new provisions; amending ORS 251.185; and declaring an
3 emergency.

4 **Be It Enacted by the People of the State of Oregon:**

5 **SECTION 1. Section 2 of this 2009 Act is added to and made a part of ORS chapter 260.**

6 **SECTION 2. (1) The Secretary of State may designate one or more organizations to work
7 cooperatively to establish citizen panels to review initiated state measures and file with the
8 secretary statements on each measure to be included in the voters' pamphlet. An organiza-
9 tion is eligible to be designated under this section if the organization ensures:**

10 (a) **The selection of citizens for each panel from a representative sample of anonymous
11 electors, using survey sampling methods that, to the extent practicable, give every elector
12 a similar chance of being selected;**

13 (b) **To the extent practicable and legally permissible, that the demographic makeup of
14 each panel fairly reflects the population of this state as a whole, with respect to character-
15 istics including, but not limited to, age, education and geographic location;**

16 (c) **That each panelist is compensated for each day served and reimbursed for any food,
17 travel and lodging expenses;**

18 (d) **That during the term of service on a panel:**

19 (A) **A panelist's name is not used to support or oppose any initiated state measure re-
20 viewed by that panelist; and**

21 (B) **A panelist does not make any contribution to support or oppose any initiated state
22 measure reviewed by that panelist; and**

23 (e) **That a study will be conducted to evaluate the usefulness of the panels established
24 by the organization and that the results will be made available to the public.**

25 (2) **A citizen panel convened under this section may prepare and file with the Secretary
26 of State up to three statements per initiated state measure considered by the panel. The
27 panel may submit the following statements of not more than 150 words:**

28 (a) **A statement in favor of the measure.**

NOTE: Matter in **boldfaced** type in an amended section is new; matter [*italic and bracketed*] is existing law to be omitted. New sections are in **boldfaced** type.

1 (b) A statement opposed to the measure.

2 (c) A statement that is neither in favor of nor opposed to the measure.

3 (3) A citizen panel must file with the Secretary of State any statements prepared under
4 this section not later than 70 days before the date of the election for which the voters'
5 pamphlet is being prepared.

6 **SECTION 3.** ORS 251.185 is amended to read:

7 251.185. (1) The Secretary of State shall have printed in the voters' pamphlet for a general
8 election or any special election a copy of the title and text of each state measure to be submitted
9 to the people at the election for which the pamphlet was prepared. Each measure shall be printed
10 in the pamphlet with:

11 (a) The number and ballot title of the measure;

12 (b) The financial estimates and any statement prepared for the measure under ORS 250.125;

13 (c) The explanatory statement prepared for the measure; [and]

14 (d) Any statements on the measure filed with the Secretary of State by a citizen panel
15 under section 2 of this 2009 Act; and

16 [(d)] (e) Arguments relating to the measure and filed with the Secretary of State.

17 (2) A county measure or measure of a metropolitan service district organized under ORS chapter
18 268, and ballot title, explanatory statement and arguments relating to the measure, filed by the
19 county or metropolitan service district under ORS 251.285 shall be included in the voters' pamphlet
20 described in subsection (1) of this section if required under ORS 251.067.

21 (3) If the Secretary of State includes in the voters' pamphlet a statement on the measure
22 filed with the secretary under section 2 of this 2009 Act, the secretary shall also include the
23 following explanation with the statement:

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25
26 The opinions expressed in this statement are those of the members of a citizen panel and
27 were developed through the citizen review process. They are NOT official opinions or posi-
28 tions endorsed by the State of Oregon or any government agency. A citizen panel is not a
29 judge of the constitutionality or legality of any ballot measure, and any statements about
30 such matters are not binding on a court of law.

31 _____
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33 **SECTION 4.** This 2009 Act being necessary for the immediate preservation of the public
34 peace, health and safety, an emergency is declared to exist, and this 2009 Act takes effect
35 on its passage.
36 _____