

REVENUE: No revenue impact

FISCAL: Fiscal statement issued

| | |
|-----------------------|---|
| Action: | Do Pass as Amended and Be Printed Engrossed and Be Referred to the Committee on Ways and Means by Prior Reference |
| Vote: | 6 - 2 - 0 |
| Yeas: | Barnhart, Berger, Garrett, Holvey, Hunt, Olson |
| Nays: | Freeman, Wingard |
| Exc.: | - |
| Prepared By: | Jim Stembridge, Administrator |
| Meeting Dates: | 2/2, 3/16 |

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES: Creates 11-member Citizens' Initiative Review Commission to facilitate the review by citizen panels of one or more initiative petitions to be voted upon at the next general election. Specifies terms of office and appointment procedures for Commission members. Establishes criteria for selection of initiative(s) to be reviewed, as well as for moderators and citizens to be selected for each panel. Directs Commission to compensate panel members as determined by administrative rule. Directs panels to prepare and file statements in favor and opposed to the measure under review, along with a statement of key findings. Directs the Secretary of State to print the citizen review panel statements in the voters' pamphlet. Declares emergency, effective upon passage.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Sunset of House Bill 2895 (2009), which authorized the 2010 pilot project
- Evaluation of 2008 & 2010 pilot projects
- Components of high-quality public review, fair and free from bias
- Publication of for-and-against numbers from within the citizen panels
- Relative value and use of findings of fact as compared with number in favor, number opposed
- Oversight, evaluation, and public meeting provisions for the proposed Commission
- Participation by persons who may be biased from the start
- Personal experiences of citizen panelists

EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT: Requires Commission to report on contributors. Authorizes advocates—both in favor and opposed—to review their respective panel's statements and provide editorial assistance. Adds specific language on financing of the new Commission, specifying that all commission expenditures, including voters' pamphlet costs, are to be paid out of Commission funds. Specifies start-up loan from the Department of Administrative Services.

BACKGROUND: The Oregon Citizen Initiative Review process was created by HB 2895 (2009), which authorized the Secretary of State to have non-profit organizations form citizen panels to review and create official statements on ballot initiative measures. For each initiative to be reviewed, a 24-member citizen panel is created by Healthy Democracy Oregon, the designated non-partisan, non-profit organization. Panelists are selected on their geographic location, party affiliation, age, voting history, and other demographic factors. Each panel lasts five consecutive days and is moderated by two professional facilitators. Each panelist receives a per diem of \$150 a day for travel, lodging, and meal expenses from the organization sponsoring the review panel.

Oregon Citizen Initiative Review panels produced reviews on Measures 73 and 74 on the November 2010 ballot. Each review gave a Citizen's statement that had a shared agreement statement from the entire panel in addition to pros and cons for each measure.

According to Healthy Democracy Oregon, it is funded from its Board Members and over 600 individual donors, including the National Science Foundation.

3/22/2011 11:34:00 AM

This summary has not been adopted or officially endorsed by action of the committee.