

**REVENUE:** No revenue impact

**FISCAL:** Minimal fiscal impact, no statement issued

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<b>Action:</b>	Do Pass and Rescind the Subsequent Referral to the Committee on Ways and Means
<b>Vote:</b>	4 - 0 - 1
<b>Yeas:</b>	Beyer, Ferrioli, Starr, Rosenbaum
<b>Nays:</b>	0
<b>Exc.:</b>	Burdick
<b>Prepared By:</b>	Erin Seiler, Administrator
<b>Meeting Dates:</b>	2/18

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**WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:** Establishes work group to examine feasibility of internet voting. Specifies issues to be investigated. Requires work group to report findings to Legislative Assembly before December 1, 2014. Declares emergency, effective on passage.

**ISSUES DISCUSSED:**

- Voting process in Oregon
- Methods for delivery and return of military and overseas voters' ballots
- Purpose of work group
- Security of online systems, particularly systems used for election purposes
- Benefits, risks, and implementation of internet voting
- Electoral participation

**EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT:** No amendment.

**BACKGROUND:** Currently, the internet has become a tool for election officials to ensure ballots were being delivered to and received from Military personnel stationed overseas. The federal Military and Overseas Voter Empowerment (MOVE) Act, required electronic delivery of unvoted ballots to military and overseas voters. In addition, many states, including Oregon, permit a military or long-term absentee, voted ballot, to be returned as an attachment to an email. The increasing utilization of internet resources and online tools for election purposes has led to an increase in research and testing of internet voting, which is a form of electronic voting that involves casting a ballot through the internet.

Internet voting was first used for binding elections in 2000 in the United States in a pilot program across several states targeting overseas voters. Since then, nine more countries have implemented internet voting: two use internet voting nationwide (Estonia and United Arab Emirates); five use internet voting in some parts of the country or for certain members of the electorate (Australia, Canada, France, Mexico and Switzerland); and two have ongoing pilots (India and Norway).

Multiple states have piloted or considered development of pilot programs for internet voting: West Virginia tested a pilot program for online voting; Colorado and Alabama have passed legislation to develop pilot programs for internet voting; and Arizona, California, Hawaii, Illinois and New York all considered similar measures in 2013.

Senate Bill 1515 requires the work group to investigate issues, feasibility, and administration of internet voting in Oregon including considering how internet voting could increase elector participation in elections, with an emphasis on Oregonians serving in or with the Armed Forces of the United States; estimate costs and savings associated with an internet voting system; and best practices that may be derived from the experience of internet voting by other states, countries and businesses. The workgroup's final report is due December 1, 2014.

2/19/2014 10:23:00 AM

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