



SENATE MAJORITY OFFICE

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Senate bill sets high standards for imitation ballots *SB 1062 resolves issues around certain types of campaign literature*

SALEM –The Senate approved legislation this morning that resolves questions about the use of sample ballots during elections. Senate Bill 1062 passed off the floor with broad bipartisan support, 27-2.

“This legislation sets high standards for how campaigns use imitation ballots during election season,” said Senate Majority Leader Richard Devlin (D-Tualatin), chair of the Senate Rules Committee. “Without taking any tools away, we have added greater clarity and protection to the democratic process.”

SB 1062 was introduced at the request of Secretary of State Kate Brown, who worked with multiple parties in an effort to provide greater clarity and objectivity in the election statute relating to sample ballots. Standards were established that would not inhibit the ability of interest groups, organizations, or political parties to conduct polling or engage in campaign outreach, nor create unnecessary costs for them.

“As Secretary of State it’s my obligation to ensure that we maintain high standards for the electoral process,” said Brown. “Oregonians get a lot of mail during election season and they need to have certainty over the difference between a real and a mock ballot.”

SB 1062 changes the notification statement that is to be printed on the ballot from “NOT FOR OFFICIAL USE” to “THIS IS NOT A REAL BALLOT. DO NOT USE TO VOTE.” It also requires the statement to appear in boldface, 36-point type.

The bill will now go to the House for consideration.

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