

Senate Bill 1014

Sponsored by Senator JAMA

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**. The statement includes a measure digest written in compliance with applicable readability standards.

Digest: The Act says that the SOS must include translations of party statements in voters' booklets. (Flesch Readability Score: 61.8).

Requires the Secretary of State to allow to be included in the translated version of each state voters' pamphlet that is made available on the website of the secretary or of a county the translations of a party's statement of arguments for the success of its principles and election of its candidates. Sets forth the requirements for a statement to be included by the secretary.

A BILL FOR AN ACT

1
2 Relating to statements of arguments by political parties; creating new provisions; and amending ORS
3 251.170.

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

5 **SECTION 1.** ORS 251.170, as amended by section 3, chapter 55, Oregon Laws 2024, and section
6 1, chapter 56, Oregon Laws 2024, is amended to read:

7 251.170. (1) The translation of a state voters' pamphlet or county voters' pamphlet required un-
8 der ORS 251.167 shall be made in the manner described in this section.

9 (2) For each state voters' pamphlet and county voters' pamphlet mailed to residents of a county,
10 the Secretary of State shall have the following portions of the voters' pamphlet professionally
11 translated into each language for which a translation is required under ORS 251.167:

12 (a) Any official statement or communication made by the Secretary of State, county clerk, filing
13 office or other public elections official, including any information described in ORS 251.026 or
14 251.315 (1)(a) to (d) and (g) and any other information regarding services offered by elections offices,
15 how to cast a ballot and key dates for the election;

16 (b) The ballot title for each measure;

17 (c) The explanatory statement for each measure;

18 (d) The financial estimate for each measure and any statement prepared for a measure under
19 ORS 250.125;

20 (e) Any racial and ethnic impact statement prepared for a measure under ORS 137.685;

21 (f) Any statement submitted for a measure by a citizen panel under ORS 250.141; and

22 (g) Except an argument for a measure prepared by the Legislative Assembly under ORS 251.245,
23 any other statement for a measure created by a public body as defined in ORS 174.109.

24 (3) In addition to the materials that the Secretary of State is required to have professionally
25 translated under subsection (2) of this section, the Secretary of State shall allow to be included in
26 the translated version of each state voters' pamphlet that is made available on the website of the
27 Secretary of State or of a county under ORS 251.167:

28 (a) Translations of a candidate statement submitted under ORS 251.065, provided that:

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 (A) The candidate is a candidate for federal or statewide office;
- 2 (B) The translation is filed by a candidate or the agent of a candidate described in subparagraph
- 3 (A) of this paragraph;
- 4 (C) Neither the translation nor the candidate statement submitted under ORS 251.065 is rejected
- 5 under ORS 251.055;
- 6 (D) The candidate statement meets the requirements of a candidate statement set forth in this
- 7 chapter; and
- 8 (E) Any translation filed under this paragraph is in one of the 10 most commonly spoken lan-
- 9 guages in this state or of any county the office represents, other than English, as listed by the
- 10 Secretary of State under ORS 251.167.
- 11 (b) Translations of an argument in support of or in opposition to a state measure filed under
- 12 ORS 251.255, provided that:
- 13 (A) The translation is filed by the person who filed the argument in support of or in opposition
- 14 to a state measure under ORS 251.255;
- 15 (B) Neither the translation nor the argument in support of or in opposition to a state measure
- 16 filed under ORS 251.255 is rejected under ORS 251.055;
- 17 (C) The statement in support of or in opposition to a state measure meets the requirements of
- 18 a statement in support of or in opposition to a state measure set forth in this chapter; and
- 19 (D) Any translation filed under this paragraph is in one of the 10 most commonly spoken lan-
- 20 guages in this state or of any county in which the measure will be voted on, other than English, as
- 21 listed by the Secretary of State under ORS 251.167.
- 22 (c) **Translations of a statement of arguments by a party filed under ORS 251.115, provided**
- 23 **that:**
- 24 (A) **The translation is filed by the person who filed the statement of arguments under**
- 25 **ORS 251.115;**
- 26 (B) **Neither the translation nor the statement of arguments filed under ORS 251.115 is**
- 27 **rejected under ORS 251.055;**
- 28 (C) **The statement of arguments meets the requirements of a statement of arguments**
- 29 **set forth in this chapter; and**
- 30 (D) **Any translation filed under this paragraph is in one of the five most commonly spo-**
- 31 **ken languages in this state, other than English, as listed by the Secretary of State under**
- 32 **ORS 251.167.**
- 33 [(c)] (d) Translations of any argument for a measure prepared by the Legislative Assembly under
- 34 ORS 251.245 submitted by the Legislative Assembly, provided that any translation filed under this
- 35 paragraph is in one of the 10 most commonly spoken languages in this state or of any county in
- 36 which the measure will be voted on, other than English, as listed by the Secretary of State under
- 37 ORS 251.167.
- 38 (4)(a) A translation that is permitted or required under this section is not required to be iden-
- 39 tical in words to the original version but must be consistent with the meaning of the original ver-
- 40 sion.
- 41 (b) A translation is not subject to any limitations on the number of words allowed set forth in
- 42 this chapter.
- 43 (5) A county may at its own expense make or accept for publication on the county's website,
- 44 as part of a translated voters' pamphlet required under ORS 251.167, any portion of a state or
- 45 county voters' pamphlet that is not described in this section.

1 (6) The Secretary of State:

2 (a) May adopt any rules necessary to implement this section; and

3 (b) Except as provided in subsection (5) of this section, is responsible for all costs necessary to
4 comply with this section.

5 (7) As used in this section, “statewide office” means Governor, Secretary of State, State Treas-
6 urer, Attorney General, Commissioner of the Bureau of Labor and Industries, or judge on the
7 Oregon Supreme Court, the Oregon Court of Appeals or the Oregon Tax Court.

8 **SECTION 2. The amendments to ORS 251.170 by section 1 of this 2025 Act apply to state**
9 **voters’ pamphlets and county voters’ pamphlets that are distributed on or after January 31,**
10 **2026.**

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