

SENATE COMMITTEE ON RULES AND ELECTIONS

January 21, 1999 Hearing Room B

4:30 p.m. Tape 4

MEMBERS PRESENT: Sen. Charles Starr, Chair

Sen. Lee Beyer

Sen. Kate Brown

MEMBER EXCUSED: Sen. Randy Miller, Vice-Chair

Sen. Neil Bryant

STAFF PRESENT: Brian E. Smith, Administrator

Rachel E. Halupowski, Administrative Support

MEASURE/ISSUES HEARD: SB 431 Public Hearing and Work Session

SB 432 Public Hearing

These minutes are in compliance with Senate and House Rules. Only text enclosed in quotation marks reports a speaker's exact words. For complete contents, please refer to the tapes.

TAPE/#	Speaker	Comments
TAPE 4, A		
000	Chair Starr	Open meeting at 4:38 p.m.
<u>SB 431 PUBLIC HEARING</u>		
006	Brian E. Smith	Committee Administrator. States SB 431 requires state agencies to review the rules they adopt at least once every five years, where currently they are required to review their rules every three years.

013	Susan Klosterman	Assistant Director for Communications, Department of Administrative Services. States she took a quick survey of state agencies to gather their opinions on the bill. States the agencies are in support of the bill, because it would give them more flexibility. States that agencies are reviewing and updating their rules more often than the three years required, due to changes in state laws, federal requirements, and changes in their programs and practices. Believes the flexibility of having five years to review rules would give them the opportunity to prioritize their needs. States there is no identifiable fiscal impact, and the attention to the rules that do not need updating would be diverted to the rules that do need updating.
041	Chair Starr	Closes public hearing and opens work session.
<u>SB 431 WORK SESSION</u>		
047	Sen. Beyer	MOTION: Moves SB 431 to the floor with a DO PASS recommendation.
		VOTE: 3-0 AYE: In a roll call vote, all members present vote Aye. EXCUSED: 2 - Bryant, Miller
		Chair Starr The motion CARRIES. SEN. BEYER will lead discussion on the floor.
<u>SB 432 PUBLIC HEARING</u>		
060	Chair Starr	Asks Vicki Ervin to testify.
063	Vicki Ervin	Director of Elections, Multnomah County. States SB 432 requires that precinct boundaries, for election purposes, must be altered to follow census maps. States that, historically, precinct lines were placed to direct people to certain locations for ballot distribution, as well as to track demographics and statistics for election analysis. Believes that because of the vote by mail system there is no need to direct people for ballot distribution. States some of the present precinct lines do not follow census maps, because the lines were established for the convenience of the voters to get to the polls.
083	Sen. Beyer	Asks if she reads SB 432 as "...following census blocks or census tracks, so you would be able to hold them together?"
087	Ervin	Agrees that if an existing line follows something that is an unidentifiable

		boundary on a census map, the line would need to be moved to adjust to the census track. States there will be adjustments to precincts between now and 2006, when the boundaries are required to be finished.
094	Sen. Beyer	Asks if it is simpler to follow federal census boundaries.
099	Ervin	Believes census lines do follow physical features, because numerators for the census need to know where they are while performing a census.
105	Sen. Beyer	Asks if census lines are a problem.
111	Ervin	Believes there are programs that the census uses, where they overlay census data with precinct boundaries. States Oregon is one of the only states that do not participate in those programs, because our precinct lines do not follow those boundaries presently.
116	Chair Starr	Gives thanks for testimony but will not move to a work session on this bill today.
128	Colleen Sealock	Elections Director, State of Oregon. States she is unaware of the reasoning why Oregon does not follow census lines. States the bill allows flexibility for annexation, especially because smaller jurisdictions are not wholly contained to match the precinct. States that subsection B of the bill allows for any administration problems during elections to vary from the census lines.
156	Sen. Brown	Asks if the Secretary of State's office opposes SB 432.
157	Sealock	Answers that the Secretary of State's office does not oppose this bill.
160	Chair Starr	Closes meeting at 4:55 p.m.

Submitted By, Reviewed By,

Rachel E. Halupowski, Brian E. Smith,
Administrative Support Administrator

EXHIBIT SUMMARY

A ñ No Exhibits