

2007 Regular Legislative Session
FISCAL ANALYSIS OF PROPOSED LEGISLATION
Prepared by the Oregon Legislative Fiscal Office

MEASURE NUMBER: HB 2060 **STATUS:** A-Engrossed **Minority Report**
SUBJECT: Creates the Commission on Legislative Campaign Finance Reform
GOVERNMENT UNIT AFFECTED: Legislative Assembly, Legislative Administration Committee
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REVIEWED BY: Theresa McHugh
DATE: June 20, 2007

	<u>2007-09</u>	<u>2009-11</u>
EFFECT ON EXPENDITURES – See Comments for conditions:		
Legislative Administration - Personal Services	\$ 169,729	
Legislative Assembly - Services and Supplies	\$ 3,910	
Total General Fund	\$ 177,549	

EFFECT ON POSITIONS – See Comments for conditions:

Legislative Administration	
Policy Analyst/Committee Administrator	1 / 0.75 FTE
Administrative Support Specialist	1 / 0.375 FTE

EFFECTIVE DATE: On passage.

GOVERNOR’S BUDGET: This bill is not included in the Governor’s budget.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT MANDATE: This bill does not affect local governments' service levels or shared revenues sufficient to trigger Section 15, Article XI of the Oregon Constitution.

COMMENTS: The measure directs the creation of the eleven-member Commission on Legislative Campaign Finance Reform. Four members will be legislators, and the House Speaker and Senate President will jointly appoint seven public members with experience, interest and perspective on the issues of campaign finance. The task force is directed to conduct a review of all aspects of the role of campaign finance issues in legislative decision-making and the goals of commission recommendations are set out in the measure, some of which are: separating policy and budget decisions from campaign contribution and expenditure influence; restraining the escalation of campaign costs and spending; encouraging legislative campaign activity that emphasizes policy discussions and voter engagement in the legislative process; decreasing candidate and caucus reliance on special interest group contributions and expenditures; preserving Oregon’s tradition of bipartisan issue resolution; and evaluating and improving the effectiveness of the Secretary of State in assisting candidates and committees with campaign finance law compliance.

A similar commission, the Public Commission on the Oregon Legislature (PCOL), was created by SB 1084 in the 2005 legislative session. It was comprised of 30 members, four of whom were legislators. Its scope was to review and make recommendations on all aspects of the legislative branch. The January 2005 Emergency Board allocated \$70,000 from the general purpose Emergency Fund to the Legislative Assembly for two start-up meetings of the commission during the regular 2005 session, including costs to employ two limited duration positions for four months. In addition, the 2005-07 budget of the Legislative Assembly included \$133,066 General Fund to establish a committee assistant position to

continue support of the PCOL until its conclusion in late 2006. One continuing LAC committee administrator was assigned to the PCOL throughout the 2005-07 interim, which was virtually full-time.

The measure directs the Legislative Administrator and Legislative Assembly to provide staff to the commission and its subcommittees. The Legislative Administration Committee (LAC) budget contains funds allocated for staff support of interim committees and task forces, currently comprised of 8 committee administrators and 6 committee assistants. This fiscal impact statement represents the incremental cost of providing support services to legislative committees, based on LFO's assumption that the full commission would meet five times in Salem over the course of 18 months, and that two subcommittees would meet five times in Salem. LFO assumes two LAC staff would be assigned to the commission for the 18 months of the 2007-09 biennium: a full-time committee administrator and a half-time committee assistant. Cost estimates for the commission do not include meetings held away from Salem.

HB 2060-A affects the workload in LAC committee services. If this commission creates a workload beyond the levels assumed in the LAC budget, or a level greater than the workload imposed by cumulative enactment of other bills, additional General Fund resources may be required, as experienced with PCOL.

The Legislative Assembly budget contain funds allocated for per diem and expense costs associated with legislators' participation in interim committee and task force meetings. These costs, together with per diem and mileage for non-legislator members of the commission, are minimal, and are reflected in the Services and Supplies category in the above table.

LFO notes that under the provisions of SCR 1 (2007) a special session of the Legislative Assembly is anticipated in February 2008. LFO assumes this session would be staffed by permanent staff of the legislative offices. Thus, the availability of LAC staff in the run-up to this special session, the duration of the session, and the post-session work would be limited, potentially affecting staff availability to the task force during this time period.