

REVENUE: No revenue impact

FISCAL: Fiscal statement issued

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Action:	Do Pass
Vote:	5 - 2 - 0
Yeas:	Berger, Buckley, Hunt, Roblan, Rosenbaum
Nays:	Esquivel, Thatcher
Exc.:	-
Prepared By:	Jim Stembridge, Administrator
Meeting Dates:	5/25, 6/13, 6/14

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**WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:** Creates Commission on Legislative Campaign Finance Reform—eleven members including four legislators—to make recommendations on separating policy decisions from campaign contributions, restraining legislative campaign spending, shifting legislative campaigning away from fund-raising and toward discussion of issues, decreasing dependence on contributions from special interests, and preserving bipartisan issue resolution. Declares emergency, takes effect upon passage.

**ISSUES DISCUSSED:**

- History of campaign finance regulation and non-regulation in Oregon Legislative Administration
- Most effective ways of involving key interests to bring about reform
- Level of legislator participation
- Purposes of the Commission
- Previous recommendations for interim committees

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

**BACKGROUND:** Senate Bill 1084 (2005) created the Public Commission on the Oregon Legislature and specified that the commission “conduct a review of and make recommendations on all aspects of the legislative branch, including the timing, frequency and length of legislative sessions, legislative procedures and the adequacy of legislative facilities and staffing.” From the Commission’s final report:

“Public confidence in the legislature is low. Part of the reason appears to be the role of money in elections and the high costs of elections. As costs go up, candidates rely more on special interest funding. Large campaign contributions may inhibit subsequent independent decision-making. Legislatures perceived to be dominated by special interests risk eroding public confidence. The 2007 Legislative Assembly should appoint a Commission on Campaign Finance Reform to examine the role of campaign finance in legislative decision making with the goals of:

- a. Separating legislative policy and budget decisions from the influence of campaign contributions;
- b. Controlling escalating campaign costs and spending;
- c. Shifting the balance of campaign activity away from fundraising towards increased issue discussion and voter engagement; and
- d. Decreasing candidate and party dependence on donations from special interest groups.

The Commission on Campaign Finance Reform should include current and former elected officials, lobbyists, professional legislative staff and others who understand the problems. The majority of the commission should not have immediate political or professional interests in the outcome. The Commission on Campaign Finance Reform should be staffed and funded by the legislature and present its findings and recommendations by a date set by the legislature.”

6/20/2007 3:11:00 PM

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