

74th OREGON LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY - 2007 Regular Session
STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY
House Committee on Elections, Ethics and Rules

MINORITY REPORT
MEASURE: HB 2589 A
CARRIER: Rep. Thatcher

REVENUE: No revenue impact

FISCAL: No fiscal impact

Action: Do Pass as Amended and Be Printed Engrossed
Signers on the Report: Representatives Thatcher and Esquivel
Prepared By: Jim Stenbridge, Administrator
Meeting Dates: 2/19, 2/21

WHAT THE MINORITY REPORT DOES: Prohibits members of the Legislative Assembly from using their positions as former legislators to obtain financial gain through lobbying until adjournment sine die of the legislative session following their terms of office. Prohibits lobbyists registered with Government Standards and Practices Commission from accepting positions appointed by the executive department or legislative department. Prohibits former lobbyists from accepting positions appointed by the executive department or legislative department during the first legislative session that they are not a registered lobbyist. Applies to lobbyists registered on or after January 1, 2008.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Public perception of influence of former legislators on current legislators
- Public perception of congressional members taking lobbying jobs
- Public perception of lobbyists taking government positions
- Blurring between state and federal officials
- Human nature of relationships
- Closing the “revolving door” for legislators moving into executive branch positions
- Knowledge about issues and the legislative process gained while a legislator
- Similar legislation proposed by the Oregon Law Commission

EFFECT OF MINORITY AMENDMENT: Prohibits lobbyists registered with Government Standards and Practices Commission from accepting a position appointed by the executive department or legislative department. Prohibits former lobbyists from accepting a position appointed by the executive department or legislative department during the first legislative session that they are not a registered lobbyist. Applies to lobbyists registered on or after January 1, 2008.

BACKGROUND: The 2005 Legislative Assembly appropriated funds to the Oregon Law Commission for a comprehensive ethics review and preparation of legislative recommendations to address lobbying, campaign finance, and funding the administration of Oregon's government ethics laws. The Oregon Law Commission's Government Ethics Work Group recommendations on public official employment/subsequent employment, the so-called “revolving door” are in HB 2594. HB 2594, however, exempts current members of the Oregon Legislative Assembly and most other elected officials serving their current terms. The restrictions in HB 2589 would apply to current members of the Oregon Legislative Assembly, but not to any other elected or appointed government officials. Neither HB 2589 nor HB 2594 contains provisions regulating registered lobbyists.

The additional provisions of the HB 2589A minority report address public perceptions of abuse of power when public officials appoint their lobby allies to positions of authority in state government.

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

Committee Services Form – 2007 Regular Session