

REVENUE: No revenue impact

FISCAL: No fiscal impact

Action: Do Pass
Vote: 4 - 3 - 0
Yeas: Buckley, Hunt, Roblan, Rosenbaum
Nays: Berger, Esquivel, Thatcher
Exc.: -
Prepared By: Jim Stenbridge, Administrator
Meeting Dates: 2/19, 2/21

WHAT THE MEASURE 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.

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 COMMITTEE AMENDMENT: No amendment.

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.