

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

**MINORITY REPORT**  
**MEASURE: SB 10 C**  
**CARRIER: Rep. Berger**

**REVENUE: No revenue impact**

**FISCAL: Fiscal statement issued**

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<b>Action:</b>	Do Pass as Amended and Be Printed Engrossed
<b>Signers on the Report:</b>	Representatives Berger and Esquivel
<b>Prepared By:</b>	Jim Stembridge, Administrator
<b>Meeting Dates:</b>	6/24

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**WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:** Makes changes to government ethics laws. Requires reporting of gifts over \$15. Requires quarterly filing of expenditure statements by lobbyists and directs the Government Standards and Practices Commission (GSPC) to make the statements publicly available on the Internet. Increases penalties from \$1000 to \$5000 for violations of lobbying or government ethics law. Prohibits former legislators from lobbying during the first regular session out of the Legislative Assembly and defines regular session. Restores monetary limit of \$100 on gifts received by public officials from people with legislative or administrative interests of \$100. Modifies requirements for contents of statement of economic interest. Requires public officials and candidates to report specified information quarterly. Authorizes public official to establish legal expense trust fund to defray certain legal expenses upon approval of GSPC. Declares emergency, effective on passage.

**ISSUES DISCUSSED:**

- Application to school boards
- Judicial Department exemption and Code of Judicial Conduct
- Offensive legal actions that could be deemed defensive use of legal trust fund
- Various gift scenarios involving state and local government activities
- Work of the Oregon Law Commission on ethics reform

**EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT:** Deletes funding mechanism for GSPC. Deletes judicial exemption from gift limitations. Restores gift exemption for food consumed in the presence of the giver and for food, lodging, and travel that requires quarterly reporting for amounts given over \$50. Requires reporting of gifts over \$15. Prohibits private use of confidential information for two years. Limits use of legal expense trust funds to defending the public official. Clarifies definition of “member of the household”.

**BACKGROUND:** In 1974, voters approved Ballot Measure 14 establishing statutes relating to Public Officials’ Financial Ethics and Reporting. Provisions in ORS chapter 244 and related statutes generally prohibit the use of office for financial gain; require filing of statements of economic interest; require disclosure of conflicts of interest; provide procedures for enforcement of violations; and provide sanctions for violations. ORS 244.020 (15) defines “public official” as any person who is serving the State of Oregon or any political subdivisions or any other public body of the state as an officer, employee, agent, or otherwise. ORS 244.020(10) defines “legislative or administrative interest” as an economic interest, distinct from that of the general public, in one or more bills, resolutions, regulations, proposals, or other matters subject to the action or vote of a public official.

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