74th OREGON LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY - 2007 Regular Session MEASURE: SB 700 A STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY CARRIER: Sen. Morse

Senate Committee on Legislative Operations and Reform

REVENUE: No revenue impact FISCAL: Fiscal statement issued

Action: Do Pass as Amended and Be Printed Engrossed

Vote: 5 - 0 - 2

Yeas: Atkinson, Avakian, Morse, President Courtney, Monroe

Nays: 0

Exc.: Metsger, Winters

Prepared By: Marjorie Taylor, Administrator

Meeting Dates: 3/07, 4/18

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES: Changes membership of the Public Officials Compensation Commission. Requires commission to recommend salaries of specified elective officers and members of the Legislative Assembly. Requires the Governor to include recommended salaries in the budget and the Legislative Assembly to consider the salary recommendations. Establishes meeting and reporting timelines. Requires the Public Officials Compensation Commission to meet in 2007, make recommendations to be considered in 2008.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Salaries of elected public officials
- Use of campaign funds
- Membership of the Public Officials Compensation Commission
- Whether or not to give the commission constitutional authority to set salaries

EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT: Replaces the measure. Removes provisions in the measure related to campaign finance. Requires the Public Officials Compensation Commission to meet in 2007, make recommendations to be considered in 2008.

BACKGROUND: Oregon's Public Officials Compensation Commission was created by the Legislative Assembly in 1983. The seven member commission had the responsibility to review and make recommendations to the Legislative Assembly regarding the salaries of the Governor, Secretary of State, State Treasurer, Attorney General, Superintendent of Public Instruction, Commissioner of the Bureau of Labor and Industries, and judges from the Court of Appeals, Supreme Court, Circuit Court and Tax Court. Based on the recommendations of the Compensation Commission, the Legislative Assembly was to set salaries for the elected officials and legislators. The terms of the last members of the commission expired in August 2000.

Other states including Washington, Delaware, Arizona and Minnesota have compensation commissions or councils that either set or recommend salary levels for legislative consideration. Recently, the Public Commission on the Oregon Legislature reviewed the structure and mandate of the Washington Citizens' Commission on Salaries for Elected Officials and recommended that Oregon's compensation commission be revived.