

Senate Bill 52

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SUMMARY

The following summary is not prepared by the sponsors of the measure and is not a part of the body thereof subject to consideration by the Legislative Assembly. It is an editor's brief statement of the essential features of the measure **as introduced**.

Creates Commission on Legislative Campaign Finance Reform.
Declares emergency, effective on passage.

A BILL FOR AN ACT

1
2 Relating to Commission on Legislative Campaign Finance Reform; and declaring an emergency.

3 Whereas public confidence in the processes of the Oregon Legislative Assembly is low; and

4 Whereas the rising cost of legislative campaigns increases the reliance of legislative candidates
5 and legislative caucuses on special interest funding; and

6 Whereas reliance on special interest funding inhibits independent legislative decision-making,
7 intensifies partisanship and discourages problem solving; and

8 Whereas when partisanship dominates legislative decision-making, cooperation, creativity and
9 compromise are neglected; and

10 Whereas a Legislative Assembly perceived to be dominated by partisanship further erodes public
11 confidence in the decisions and effectiveness of the assembly; and

12 Whereas legislative effectiveness builds public confidence in legislative processes and outcomes;
13 now, therefore,

14 **Be It Enacted by the People of the State of Oregon:**

15 **SECTION 1.** (1) **There is created the Commission on Legislative Campaign Finance Re-**
16 **form consisting of 11 members appointed as follows:**

17 (a) **The President of the Senate shall appoint two members from among members of the**
18 **Senate;**

19 (b) **The Speaker of the House of Representatives shall appoint two members from among**
20 **members of the House of Representatives; and**

21 (c) **The President and Speaker shall jointly appoint seven public members who have broad**
22 **experience with, interest in and perspective on campaign finance issues related to members**
23 **of the Legislative Assembly and candidates for legislative office.**

24 (2) **The commission shall conduct a review of and make recommendations on all aspects**
25 **of the role of campaign finance issues in legislative decision-making. The goals of the com-**
26 **mission's recommendations shall include:**

27 (a) **Separating legislative policy and budget decisions from the influence of campaign**
28 **contributions and expenditures;**

29 (b) **Restraining the escalation of legislative campaign costs and spending;**

30 (c) **Shifting the balance of legislative campaign activity away from fund-raising and to-**

NOTE: Matter in **boldfaced** type in an amended section is new; matter [*italic and bracketed*] is existing law to be omitted.
New sections are in **boldfaced** type.

1 ward discussion of policy issues and activities designed to engage voters in the legislative
2 process;

3 (d) Decreasing the dependence of legislative candidates and legislative caucuses on con-
4 tributions from and expenditures by special interest groups; and

5 (e) Preserving the Oregon legislative tradition of resolving issues in a bipartisan manner.

6 (3) A majority of the members of the commission constitutes a quorum for the trans-
7 action of business. A majority of the members of a subcommittee of the commission consti-
8 tutes a quorum for the transaction of business of the subcommittee.

9 (4) Official action by the commission requires the approval of a majority of the members
10 of the commission. Official action by a subcommittee requires the approval of a majority of
11 the members of the subcommittee.

12 (5) The President and Speaker shall jointly designate one member of the commission to
13 serve as chairperson of the commission.

14 (6) The chairperson of the commission may determine the number and nature of sub-
15 committees and appoint commission members to subcommittees to carry out the work of the
16 commission. The chairperson of the commission shall select one member of each subcom-
17 mittee to serve as chairperson of the subcommittee.

18 (7) If there is a vacancy on the commission for any cause, the appointing authority shall
19 make an appointment to become immediately effective. The chairperson of the commission
20 shall make appointments to fill vacancies on subcommittees.

21 (8) The commission shall meet at times and places specified by the call of the chair-
22 person. Subcommittees of the commission shall meet at times and places specified by the
23 chairpersons of the subcommittees.

24 (9) The commission may adopt rules necessary for the operation of the commission.

25 (10) No later than January 9, 2009, the commission shall prepare a report of its review
26 for submission to the members of the Seventy-fifth Legislative Assembly.

27 (11) The commission may draft and pre-session file legislation to be considered by the
28 Seventy-fifth Legislative Assembly.

29 (12) The Legislative Administration Committee and the Legislative Assembly shall pro-
30 vide staff to support the commission and subcommittees of the commission.

31 (13) Members of the commission who are not members of the Legislative Assembly are
32 entitled to compensation and may be reimbursed for actual and necessary travel and other
33 expenses incurred by them in the performance of their official duties in the manner and
34 amounts provided for in ORS 292.495. Claims for expenses incurred in performing functions
35 of the commission shall be paid out of funds appropriated to the Legislative Assembly for
36 that purpose.

37 (14) All agencies of state government, as defined in ORS 174.111, are directed to assist
38 the commission in the performance of its duties and, to the extent permitted by laws relating
39 to confidentiality, to furnish such information and advice as the members of the commission
40 consider necessary to perform their duties.

41 **SECTION 2.** Section 1 of this 2007 Act is repealed January 12, 2009.

42 **SECTION 3.** This 2007 Act being necessary for the immediate preservation of the public
43 peace, health and safety, an emergency is declared to exist, and this 2007 Act takes effect
44 on its passage.