

REVENUE: No revenue impact

FISCAL: No fiscal impact

Action:	Do Pass as Amended and Be Printed Engrossed
Vote:	8 - 0 - 0
Yeas:	Berger, Edwards C., Garrard, Gelser, Jenson, Nolan, Read, Roblan
Nays:	0
Exc.:	0
Prepared By:	Jerry Watson, Administrator
Meeting Dates:	4/6, 5/8

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES: Exempts from the definition of “gift,” for purposes of ethics laws, certain sums paid to a public school teacher for: (a) expenses for providing extracurricular services, tutoring or coaching; (b) expenses for accompanying students on an educational trip; and (c) expenses from an institution of higher education for student teacher supervision if supervision is performed concurrently with a teacher’s duties for a school district. Excludes conferences and programs to categories of meetings which a public official can attend that are excluded from gift definition. Removes references to “domestic partner” throughout ORS 244.020 and 244.175.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Impact of ethics reforms adopted in 2007 on school trips and payment to teachers by institutions of higher education for supervision of student teachers
- Oregon Government Ethics Commission interpretation of teacher travel expenses
- Difference between expenses and honoraria
- Possible exemption for public school, school district or Department of education employees or school board members employees for reasonable expenses paid by a tax-exempt not-for-profit corporation.

EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT: Adds “conference” and “program” to category of meetings which public official can attend that is excluded from gift definition. Modifies gift exemption for reasonable expenses of a public school teacher by substituting public school “employee” for public school “teacher” and limits circumstances for that exemption to “accompanying students on an educational trip.” Removes references to “domestic partner” throughout. ORS 244.020 and 244.175. Repeals ORS 244.380. Specifies different effective dates for certain provisions of the bill.

BACKGROUND: In 2007 the Legislative Assembly made substantial changes to Oregon’s government ethics laws, including changes to the definition of “gift,” and exemptions to the definition of “gift.” The exemptions found in this bill were not included in ethics reform legislation enacted during the 2007 Legislative Session.