

REVENUE: No revenue impact

FISCAL: No fiscal impact

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**Action:** Do Pass with Amendments to the A-Eng. Measure, Including Amendments to Resolve Conflicts (Printed B-Eng.)

**Vote:** 4 - 0 - 1

**Yeas:** Atkinson, Ferrioli, Metsger, Devlin

**Nays:** -

**Exc.:** Burdick

**Prepared By:** Erin Seiler, Administrator  
Jim Stenbridge, Committee Staff

**Meeting Dates:** 6/5, 6/9

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**WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:** For purposes of government ethics regulation, exempts from definition of “gift” sums paid to public school employees for expenses to accompany students on educational trips. Adds “conference” to category of meetings which public official can attend that is excluded from gift definition. Adds program materials to list of materials, publications, and subscriptions excluded from the definition of gift. Removes “domestic partner” from definition of “relative” for purpose of disclosure of potential conflicts of interest. Repeals provisions specifying penalties and procedures when candidate or public official refuses to file statement of economic interest. Deletes the “receives less than five percent of its funding from for-profit organizations” condition on non-profit organization when expenses paid by that non-profit organization are considered not to be gifts. Changes prohibition on participation in contracts from two years after person held position to two years after authorization of the contract. Declares an emergency; effective upon passage.

**ISSUES DISCUSSED:**

- Educational travel accompanied by school teachers
- Sources of contributions to non-profit organizations
- Rationale for removing “domestic partner” from definition of “relative”
- Spouse and domestic partner provisions of current statute

**EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT:** Deletes the “receives less than five percent of its funding from for-profit organizations” condition on non-profit organization when expenses paid by that non-profit organization are considered not to be gifts. Changes prohibition on participation in contracts from two years after person held position to two years after authorization of the contract. Resolves conflicts with SB 30 (Chapter 68 Oregon Laws 2009) on the repeal of ORS 244.380.

**BACKGROUND:** In 1974, voters approved the establishment of statutes relating to financial ethics and reporting by public officials. 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.

In 2007, the Legislative Assembly made substantial changes to Oregon’s government ethics laws, including changes to and exemptions from the definition of “gift.” In general, gifts are limited to a maximum of \$50 from any single source during a calendar year.

6/12/2009 9:22:00 AM

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