

REVENUE: No revenue impact  
FISCAL: No fiscal impact  
SUBSEQUENT REFERRAL TO:

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**Action:**

**Vote:**

**Yeas:**

**Nays:**

**Exc.:**

**Prepared By:** Erin Seiler, Administrator

**Meeting Dates:** 2/6, 3/6

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**WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:** Standardizes definitions of “member of the household” and “relative” for purposes of ethics laws.

**ISSUES DISCUSSED:**

- Creation of one standard definition of “relatives” for purpose of ethics laws
- Removal of from definition of “relative” of uncle, aunt, nephews and nieces
- Definition of “in-law” and scope of applicability
- Possible amendment

**EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT:**

-1 amendment: Removes “in-laws” and stepchild. Adds “son-in-law” and “daughter-in-law” to definition of “relative”.

**BACKGROUND:** Senate Bill 10, 2007 and Senate Bill 30, 2009, revised the definition “member of the household” and “relative” for the purpose of government ethics laws. Currently, “relative” is defined differently in two sections of the ethics statutes, Chapter 244. The ethics portion of Chapter 244 defines “relative” to mean the spouse of the public official or candidate; any children of the public official or of the public official’s spouse; any children of the candidate or of the candidate’s spouse; siblings, spouses of siblings or parents of the public official or of the public official’s spouse; siblings, spouses of siblings or parents of the candidate or of the candidate’s spouse. The nepotism portion of Chapter 244 defines “relative” as “spouse of the public official, any children of the public official or of the public official’s spouse, and brothers, sisters, half brothers, half sisters, brothers-in-law, sisters-in-law, sons-in-law, daughters-in-law, mothers-in-law, fathers-in-law, aunts, uncles, nieces, nephews, stepparents, stepchildren or parents of the public official or of the public official’s spouse”

House Bill 2079 combines the two separate definitions of “relative” into one standard definition. The definition of “relative” for all the ethics statutes would be: the spouse, parent, stepparent, child, stepchild, sibling, stepsibling or in-law of the public official or candidate and the parent, stepparent, child, stepchild, sibling, stepsibling or in-law of the spouse of the public official or candidate.