

REVENUE: No revenue impact

FISCAL: No fiscal impact

Action:	Do Pass as Amended and Be Printed Engrossed
Vote:	9 - 0 - 0
Yeas:	Barnhart, Berger, Dembrow, Hicks, Holvey, Hoyle, Jenson, Kennemer, Garrett
Nays:	0
Exc.:	0
Prepared By:	Erin Seiler, Administrator
Meeting Dates:	2/6, 3/6

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES: Standardizes definitions of “member of the household” and “relative” for purposes of ethics laws. Adds “son-in-law” and “daughter-in-law” to definition of “relative.”

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Creation of standard definition of “relative” for purpose of ethics laws
- Removal of uncle, aunt, nephews and nieces from definition of “relative”
- Definition of “in-law” and scope of applicability
- Possible amendment
- Exposure of public official to additional liability
- Frequency of sanctions by Oregon Government Ethics Commissions (OGEC) for gifts to in-laws
- Role of OGEC in adjudicating conflict of interest and gift issues
- Impact on rural communities
- Inclusion of step-siblings in definition

EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT: Removes “in-laws” and duplicative reference to 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 purposes 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 for all the ethics statutes: the spouse, parent, stepparent, child, stepchild, sibling, stepsibling, son-in-law, and daughter-in-law of the public official or candidate and the parent, stepparent, child, stepchild, sibling, stepsibling, son-in-law, and daughter-in-law of the spouse of the public official or candidate.

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