

**REVENUE: No revenue impact**

**FISCAL: No fiscal impact**

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<b>Action:</b>	Do Pass as Amended and Be Printed Engrossed
<b>Vote:</b>	8 - 1 - 0
<b>Yeas:</b>	Barnhart, Berger, Dembrow, Hicks, Holvey, Hoyle, Kennemer, Garrett
<b>Nays:</b>	Jenson
<b>Exc.:</b>	0
<b>Prepared By:</b>	Erin Seiler, Administrator
<b>Meeting Dates:</b>	4/8, 5/29

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**WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:** Disconnects salaries of members of the Legislative Assembly and Circuit Court judges.

**ISSUES DISCUSSED:**

- Legislative history of Public Officials Compensation Commission (POCC)
- Uncoupling salaries of justices and Legislative Assembly
- Honor recommendations of POCC in Governor's budget
- Rate of judicial compensation
- Adequate compensation for judges to handle caseload and legal complexities
- Ability of POCC to introduce measure with salary recommendations
- Constitutional limits on salary of legislators
- Ability to reduce judicial salaries while in office
- Reason for connecting legislative and judicial salaries

**EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT:** Removes requirement that Public Officials Compensation Commission make recommendations on salaries of elected officials, including state Senators and state Representatives. Removes requirement that Governor include recommendations in Governor's budget report and that Legislature consider recommendations when adopting state budget.

**BACKGROUND:** Oregon's Public Officials Compensation Commission (POCC) was created by the Legislative Assembly in 1983. The seven-member commission had the responsibility to review and make recommendations to the Legislative Assembly regarding the salaries of legislators, the Governor, Secretary of State, State Treasurer, Attorney General, Superintendent of Public Instruction, Commissioner of the Bureau of Labor and Industries, and judges from the Court of Appeals, Supreme Court, Circuit Court, and Tax Court. Based on the recommendations of the POCC, the Legislative Assembly was to set salaries for the elected officials and legislators.

Senate Bill 700 (2007) reestablished the POCC, increasing membership from seven to 11, including six members selected by lot by the Secretary of State and directed the commission to recommend salaries for legislators and other elective officers. In 2009, Senate Bill 778 established fixed levels of salary for statewide elected officials and set the salaries of members of Legislative Assembly at one step below the maximum salary range in Management Service Compensation Plan in the Executive Branch or 17 percent of the salary of a Circuit Court judge. In addition, the measure limited the duties of POCC to making salary recommendations.

House Bill 2597-A unties the salaries of members of the Legislative Assembly and Circuit Court judges.

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