

PRELIMINARY STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Joint Committee On Ways and Means

Fiscal: Has minimal fiscal impact

Revenue: No Revenue Impact

Action Date:

Action:

Meeting Dates:

Prepared By: Theresa McHugh, Budget Analyst

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Requires campaign finance statement to be filed in ORESTAR within two business days after single contribution or expenditure of \$2,500 or more is made, if it occurs during 14-day period immediately preceding election. Establishes 15-member Task Force on Campaign Finance Reform. Specifies membership, charge and reporting requirement. Declares emergency, effective on passage.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

Fiscal Provisions of the measure.

EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT:

Removes all sections of the bill except those pertaining to the Task Force on Campaign Finance Reform. Modifies membership of the Task Force.

BACKGROUND:

Oregon statute requires disclosure of contributions and expenditures related to any candidate, measure or political party active in any election including initiative, referendum and recall petition drives. All political committees and chief petitioner committees are required to file all contributions and expenditures using the online campaign finance reporting system, ORESTAR.

Current Oregon law requires all contributions and expenditures by a candidate or political committee be reported electronically within 30 days, except for the 42-day period prior to an election, when transactions must be reported within seven calendar days. Even with this increased frequency of reporting, campaigns have waited to report expenditures until seven calendar days before the election and delayed reporting until the last possible moment. The result of the current expenditure reporting deadlines is that voters have no information on who is funding campaign activities late in an election cycle.