

STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Senate Committee On Rules

Fiscal: Has minimal fiscal impact

Revenue: No Revenue Impact

Action Date: 06/11/15

Action: Do Pass.

Meeting Dates: 06/11

Vote:

Yeas: 3 - Boquist, Burdick, Rosenbaum

Exc: 2 - Beyer, Ferrioli

Prepared By: Erin Seiler, Committee Administrator

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Alters definition of “public official.” Prohibits Governor, First Partner, Secretary of State, State Treasurer, Attorney General and Commissioner of Bureau of Labor and Industries from receiving money or other consideration for speaking engagement or presentation. Requires Deputy Secretary of State, First Partner and all policy advisors and attorneys employed by Governor’s office to file statement of economic interest. Increases civil penalty for willful abuse of official position by public official. Declares emergency, effective on passage.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Public role of spouse or partner of Governor
- Statutory clarity for role of spouse or partner
- Expansion of who files statements of economic interest
- Restoration of public trust
- New ethics laws need to be coupled with enforcement

EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT:

No amendment.

BACKGROUND:

The spouse of the Governor is commonly referred to as the First Lady or First Gentleman of that state. This is an unofficial title, in which the title or explanation of the duties are not defined by statute in Oregon. Thus, officially Oregon does not recognize a first lady, but traditionally, that role is played by a spouse in the Governor's mansion.

House Bill 2020 formally defines “first partner” as a spouse or domestic partner of the Governor, or an individual who primarily has a personal relationship with the Governor as determined by rule of the Oregon Government Ethics Commission (OGEC). It expands the statutory definition of “public official” in ORS 244.020(14) to include first partner.

The measure prohibits the Governor, First Partner, Secretary of State, State Treasurer, Attorney General and Commissioner of the Bureau of Labor and Industries from soliciting or receiving an honorarium, money or any other consideration, as defined in ORS 171.725, for any speaking engagement or presentation. Finally, HB 2020 expands the list of public officials who need to file statements of economic interest with the OGEC to include the Deputy Secretary of State, First Partner, the legal counsel, the deputy legal counsel and all policy advisors within the Governor’s office.