

**STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY****House Committee On Rules****Fiscal:** Has minimal fiscal impact**Revenue:** No Revenue Impact**Action Date:** 06/15/15**Action:** Do Pass As Amended, Be Printed Engrossed, And Bill Be Referred To Ways And Means.**Meeting Dates:** 02/16, 06/08, 06/15**Vote:**

Yeas: 8 - Barnhart, Gilliam, Hoyle, Kennemer, Nosse, Rayfield, Smith Warner, Wilson

Exc: 1 - McLane

**Prepared By:** Erin Seiler, Committee Administrator**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:**

- Importance of campaign finance disclosure in campaigns
- Ability to withhold disclosure of large contributions or expenditures until after election day
- Number of contributions and expenditures made in final days of campaign
- Aggregate or single contribution trigger for expedited reporting
- Change in reporting timeline for smaller donations
- Independent expenditures
- Reporting of in-kind contributions
- Timeliness of notification of in-kind contributions
- Reasons for changing reporting timeline of contributions and expenditures
- Gaps in campaign finance reporting requirements
- Reason for emergency clause

**EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT:**

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. Restores reporting timeline during 42 days before election to 7 days for contributions and expenditures under \$2,500 and all independent expenditures. Establishes 15-member Task Force on Campaign Finance Reform (Task Force). Specifies membership, charge and reporting requirement. Requires Committee Services Office of Legislative Administration Office to provide staff support for 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.

House Bill 2178-A requires a campaign finance statement to be filed in ORESTAR within two business days after a contribution or expenditure of \$2,500 or more is made, if it occurs during the 14-day period preceding an election. In addition, the measure establishes a 15-member Task Force on Campaign Finance Reform to conduct an analysis and determine the best method or methods to address campaign finance reforms and report to the interim committee on rules no later than December 31, 2015.