

STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

House Committee On Rules

Fiscal: No Fiscal Impact

Revenue: No Revenue Impact

Action Date: 06/15/15

Action: Do Pass As Amended And Be Printed Engrossed.

Meeting Dates: 02/18, 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:

Extends exemption from reporting to Oregon Government Ethics Commission (OGEC) moneys spent by registered lobbyist on lobbying another registered lobbyist. Exemption does not apply if person lobbied is legislative official, executive official or member of state board or commission. Sunsets exemption on June 30, 2017. Declares emergency, effective on passage.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Legislative history establishing exemption
- Capitol Club standards of conduct and compliance with regulations for reporting
- Definition of “other persons” for purpose of reporting
- Lobbyist-to-lobbyist lobbying on issues
- Focus of ethics statutes has been on lobbying of public officials
- Extension of exemption to 2017
- Role and purpose of reporting to OGEC
- New OGEC online reporting system

EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT:

Extends exemption from reporting to Oregon Government Ethics Commission moneys spent by registered lobbyist on lobbying another registered lobbyist until June 30, 2017.

BACKGROUND:

In 2013, House Bill 3528 was adopted to exempt registered lobbyists from reporting to Oregon Government Ethics Commission (OGEC) moneys spent on lobbying another registered lobbyist. The exemption does not apply if person lobbied is legislative official, executive official, or member of state board or commission. The measure included a sunset clause of June 30, 2015.

ORS 171.725 (8) defines lobbying beyond legislative and executive officials, to include the solicitations of “other persons.” The statutory definition of lobbying, as applied by the OGEC, has three components: influencing or attempting to influence legislative action through oral or written communication with legislative officials; solicitation of executive officials or other persons to influence or attempt to influence legislative action; or attempting to obtain the goodwill of legislative officials. Under current statute (ORS 171.745(1)(a)), an individual would be required to report food, drink and entertainment expenses, if the individual approaches other persons with a request or plea to join them in influencing or attempting to influence legislative action.

House Bill 2058-A extends the exemption for registered lobbyists from reporting to OGEC moneys spent on lobbying another registered lobbyist through June 30, 2017.