

STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

House Committee On Rules

Fiscal: No Fiscal Impact

Revenue: No Revenue Impact

Action Date: 06/15/15

Action: Do Pass.

Meeting Dates: 05/13, 06/15

Vote:

Yeas: 7 - Barnhart, Gilliam, Hoyle, Nosse, Rayfield, Smith Warner, Wilson

Exc: 2 - Kennemer, McLane

Prepared By: Erin Seiler, Committee Administrator

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Extends exemption from statutory gift limit to include admission provided to, or cost of food or beverage consumed by, relative of public official who accompanies public official at reception, meal or meeting.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Reasons for extending exemption to relative, who may not be member of household
- Type of events that public official may take relative
- Definition of “relative”

EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT:

No amendment.

BACKGROUND:

ORS 244.020 (6)(a) defines the term “gift” as anything of economic value that is given to a public official, a relative, or member of the public official’s household that is not equally extended to nonpublic officials. Public officials are limited to receiving a total amount of \$50 per year from a single source with a legislative or administrative interest. These limits also apply to the public official’s relatives and members of the official’s household. There are several exemptions to this definition of “gift” including: admission provided to, or the cost of food or beverage consumed by, a public official or a member of the household or staff of the public official when accompanying the public official at a reception, meal or meeting held by an organization when the public official represents state, local or a special government body. However, this exemption does not extend to relatives of the public official whom are not members of their household.

Senate Bill 293 extends the exemption from statutory gift limit to include admission provided to, or cost of food or beverage consumed by, relative of public official who accompanies public official at reception, meal or meeting. The exemption would be a relative as defined by ORS 244.020 (15).