

# House Bill 3226

Sponsored by Representative ESQUIVEL; Senator THATCHER

## SUMMARY

The following summary is not prepared by the sponsors of the measure and is not a part of the body thereof subject to consideration by the Legislative Assembly. It is an editor's brief statement of the essential features of the measure **as introduced**.

Increases criminal and civil penalties for violations of specified election laws. Enhances penalties if person committing violation is public official acting in official capacity.  
Declares emergency, effective on passage.

## A BILL FOR AN ACT

1  
2 Relating to election offenses penalties; amending ORS 260.993 and 260.995; and declaring an emer-  
3 gency.

4 **Be It Enacted by the People of the State of Oregon:**

5 **SECTION 1.** ORS 260.993 is amended to read:

6 260.993. (1) The penalty for violation of ORS 260.532 is limited to that provided in ORS 260.532  
7 (6) and (8).

8 (2) Violation of ORS 247.125 (1), 247.171 (5) **or (6)**, 247.420 (2), 253.710, 260.402, 260.555, 260.558,  
9 **260.567, 260.569**, 260.575, **260.635**, 260.645 or 260.665 (2) or (3) involving any action described in ORS  
10 260.665 (2)(d) to (f), **260.675, 260.685, 260.695 (4), 260.705** or 260.715 is a Class C felony.

11 *[(3) Violation of ORS 260.695 (4) is a Class A misdemeanor.]*

12 *[(4) Violation of ORS 247.171 (6) is a Class C misdemeanor.]*

13 **(3) Violation of a provision listed in subsection (2) of this section is a Class B felony if**  
14 **the violation is committed by a public official while acting in a public capacity.**

15 **SECTION 2.** ORS 260.995 is amended to read:

16 260.995. (1) Except as provided in subsection (2) of this section, following an investigation under  
17 ORS 260.345, the Secretary of State or Attorney General may impose a civil penalty not to exceed  
18 \$1,000 for each violation of any provision of Oregon Revised Statutes relating to the conduct of any  
19 election, any rule adopted by the secretary under ORS chapters 246 to 260 or any other matter  
20 preliminary to or relating to an election, for which a civil penalty is not otherwise provided.

21 (2) The secretary or the Attorney General may impose a civil penalty not to exceed:

22 (a) \$1,000 plus the amount converted to personal use for each violation of ORS 260.407[; or].

23 (b) \$10,000 for each violation of ORS 260.555, 260.558, 260.575, **260.685**, 260.695 (1) or 260.715 (1)  
24 or section 1b, Article IV of the Oregon Constitution.

25 (c) **\$25,000 for each violation of ORS 260.569.**

26 (d) **\$50,000 for each violation of ORS 260.555, 260.558, 260.567, 260.575, 260.635 or 260.695 (4).**

27 (e) **\$125,000 for each violation of ORS 247.125 (1), 247.171 (5) or (6), 247.420 (2), 253.710,**  
28 **260.645, 260.665 (2) or (3) involving any action described in ORS 260.665 (2)(d) to (f), 260.675,**  
29 **260.705 or 260.715.**

30 (f) **Twice the amount of the allowed civil penalty for a violation listed in this subsection**  
31 **if the violation is committed by a public official while acting in an official capacity.**

**NOTE:** Matter in **boldfaced** type in an amended section is new; matter *[italic and bracketed]* is existing law to be omitted.  
New sections are in **boldfaced** type.

1 (3) Except as otherwise provided by this section, civil penalties under this section shall be im-  
2 posed as provided in ORS 183.745. In addition to the requirements of ORS 183.745, the notice shall  
3 include:

4 (a) A statement of the authority and jurisdiction under which the hearing is to be held; and

5 (b) If the person is an agency, corporation or an unincorporated association, a statement that  
6 such person must be represented by an attorney licensed in Oregon, unless the person is a political  
7 committee which may be represented by any officer identified in the most recent statement of or-  
8 ganization filed with the filing officer.

9 (4) A hearing on whether to impose a civil penalty and to consider circumstances in mitigation  
10 shall be held by the secretary or Attorney General:

11 (a) Upon request of the person against whom the penalty may be assessed, if the request is made  
12 not later than the 20th day after the date the person received notice sent under subsection (3) of  
13 this section; or

14 (b) Upon the secretary's or Attorney General's own motion.

15 (5) The person against whom a penalty may be assessed need not appear in person at a hearing  
16 held under this section, but instead may submit written testimony or other evidence, sworn to before  
17 a notary public, to the secretary or Attorney General for entry in the hearing record. The testimony  
18 or other evidence must be received by the secretary or Attorney General not later than three  
19 business days before the day of the hearing.

20 (6) All hearings under this section shall be held not later than 45 days after the deadline for the  
21 person against whom the penalty may be assessed to request a hearing. However, if requested by  
22 the person against whom the penalty may be assessed, a hearing under subsection (4) of this section  
23 shall be held not later than 60 days after the deadline for the person against whom the penalty may  
24 be assessed to request a hearing.

25 (7) The secretary or Attorney General shall issue an order not later than 90 days after a hearing  
26 or after the deadline for requesting a hearing if no hearing is held.

27 (8) All penalties recovered under this section shall be paid into the State Treasury and credited  
28 to the General Fund.

29 (9) In the case of a civil penalty imposed under this section for a violation of ORS 260.407, the  
30 person against whom the penalty is assessed:

31 (a) Is personally responsible for the payment of the civil penalty;

32 (b) Shall pay the civil penalty from personal funds of the person; and

33 (c) May not pay the civil penalty from contributions received by a candidate, a candidate's  
34 principal campaign committee, a political committee or a petition committee.

35 **SECTION 3. This 2015 Act being necessary for the immediate preservation of the public**  
36 **peace, health and safety, an emergency is declared to exist, and this 2015 Act takes effect**  
37 **on its passage.**

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