

SB 225 -1 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Senate Committee On Rules

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Meeting Dates: 3/20, 4/19

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Specifies that treasurer of political committee or treasurer of petition committee is personally responsible for performance of specified filing requirements and duties and prescribes effective date.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Political and petition committee accountability
- Previous iterations of liability in statute
- Professional and volunteer committee treasurers

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

-1 Proposed:

The -1 amendments permit the treasurer of a political or petition committee to designate a liable individual for the purposes of certain campaign finance violations and requires a treasurer to include the designee's name and address on the committee's statement of organization.

BACKGROUND:

Currently, ORS 260.035 provides that a candidate is personally responsible for the performance of duties with regard to the filing of prescribed statements related to the organization, expenditures and contributions of a candidate committee. Additionally, a candidate is permitted to serve as the treasurer of their candidate committee or to appoint an individual to serve as the candidate committee's treasurer. If a candidate opts to appoint a candidate committee treasurer, statute requires that the appointed treasurer is responsible for the performance of specified duties related to the filing of statements regarding the organization, expenditures and contributions of the candidate committee. Further, any default or violation of the aforementioned filing requirements are considered attributed to the candidate. Conversely, current statute does not provide similar guidance regarding accountability for defaults and violations made by a political or petition committee.

Senate Bill 255 specifies that the treasurer of a political committee or a petition committee is personally responsible for the performance of specified filing requirements and duties related to committee statements of organization, expenditures and contributions. Additionally, the bill prescribes an effective date 91 days after the 2017 Legislative Assembly adjourns sine die.

The -1 amendments would permit the treasurer of a political or petition committee to designate a liable individual for the purposes of certain campaign finance violations and requires a treasurer to include the designee's name and address on the committee's statement of organization.