

HB 2298 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Senate Committee On Rules

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Meeting Dates: 5/1

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Clarifies requirement that all candidates who appear on primary or general election ballot file statements of economic interest.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

BACKGROUND:

According to ORS 244.050, candidates who are running for a statewide office, judicial officer, to be district attorney or to become a member of the Legislative Assembly are required to file statements of economic interest (SEI) with the Oregon Government Ethics Commission (OGEC). Currently, most candidates are required to file their SEI by April 15, prior to the May primary election because the prescribed candidacy filing deadline is at least 30 days prior to the SEI filing deadline. Statute provides alternative means for others to become candidates without participating in the May primary election. For example, minor party candidates, write-in candidates, non-affiliated candidates for partisan office and a candidate who fills a vacancy in nomination after the May primary election are not subject to certain nomination and candidate filing requirements. These candidates are not identified by the April 15 filing date and the SEI filing requirements for these candidates are unclear, resulting in some candidates and OGEC interpreting the requirement to file a SEI differently.

House Bill 2298 clarifies the application of SEI filing requirements by specifying that a person who becomes a candidate for the general election for a statewide office, judicial office, district attorney or Legislative Assembly after April 15th, is required to file a SEI not later than the 40th day before the statewide general election occurs.