

HB 2584 A STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Senate Committee On Rules

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Meeting Dates: 6/5

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Specifies conduct and expenditures that constitute "coordination" with candidates for purpose of independent expenditure reporting requirements. Lowers threshold for filing required statement of independent expenditures to aggregate of \$250 per calendar year. Requires independent expenditure statements be filed within seven days of reaching or exceeding threshold. Increases penalties for contribution and independent expenditure reporting violations. Requires detailed accounts be maintained for at least two years by candidates, petition committees, political committees and individuals who exceed threshold.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

No amendment.

BACKGROUND:

According to statute, independent expenditures are expenditures for communications in support of or opposition to a clearly identified candidate or measure that are not made with the cooperation or prior consent of, or in consultation with, or at the request or suggestion of, a candidate or any agent or authorized committee of the candidate or any political committee or agent of a political committee supporting or opposing a measure (ORS 260.005). House Bill 2584-A identifies specific conduct and criteria that establish coordination, including the following: 1) the solicitation of money or an appearance at a fundraiser by a candidate, for a group, and the group makes a subsequent expenditure that benefits the candidate; 2) a group led by a family member of a candidate or by an individual who was employed within the preceding 12 months as a staff member of a candidate that makes expenditures that benefit the candidate's campaign; 3) a candidate that provides information to a group about the candidate's campaign needs subsequently followed by group expenditures; 4) a candidate and a group employing the same consultant to provide campaign or fundraising services during the same electoral cycle and the group making expenditures to benefit the candidate, or; 5) a group republishing or redistributing materials from a candidate's campaign communications.

Currently, a person must file a statement of independent expenditures in ORESTAR if the person makes independent expenditures reaching or exceeding an aggregate total of \$750 in a calendar year. Statute requires that statements of independent expenditures include the following information: the amount and purpose of the expenditure; the name, occupation and address of each person, and each political or petition committee, that contributes an aggregate amount of more than \$100 in a calendar year on behalf of a candidate or to a political committee or petition committee, the total amount contributed by that person or committee, and the total amount of other contributions as a single item; and any candidates or measures supported or opposed by the independent expenditure.

House Bill 2584-A decreases the reporting threshold from \$750 to \$250 in a calendar year and requires filing to be made within seven days of reaching the threshold. Additionally, the measure increases prescribed penalties for failing to report qualifying contributions or expenditures: from 10 percent to 20 percent of the total amount of a contribution or expenditure that is less than \$1,000, and from 10 percent to 40 percent of the total amount of a contribution or expenditure that is \$1,000 or more.