

**HB 2298 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY**

**Carrier:** Rep. Williamson

**House Committee On Rules**

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**Action Date:** 03/28/17

**Action:** Do Pass.

**Vote:** 9-0-0-0

**Yeas:** 9 - Barreto, Hack, Holvey, Kennemer, McLane, Nosse, Rayfield, Smith Warner, Williamson

**Fiscal:** No fiscal impact

**Revenue:** No revenue impact

**Prepared By:** Erin Seiler, LPRO Analyst

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**WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:**

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

**ISSUES DISCUSSED:**

- Clarification of requirement to file SEI for all candidates for specific offices
- Intent of original statute
- Application of requirement to all candidates (major party, minor party and write-in candidates)

**EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:**

No amendment.

**BACKGROUND:**

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). Most candidates are required to file the SEI by April 15, ahead of the May primary election because the candidacy filing deadline for the candidates is at least 30 days prior to the SEI deadline.

It is possible for others to become candidates without participating in the May primary election, such as 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. These candidates were not known on April 15 and the statutory provisions (ORS 244.050(4) and (5)) that apply to 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 addresses the issue by clarifying requirement 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, must file a SEI not later than the 40th day before the statewide general election.