

HB 2577 A STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY**Carrier:** Rep. Rayfield**House Committee On Rules****Action Date:** 03/30/17**Action:** Do pass with amendments. (Printed A-Eng.)**Vote:** 7-1-1-0**Yeas:** 7 - Hack, Holvey, McLane, Nosse, Rayfield, Smith Warner, Williamson**Nays:** 1 - Kennemer**Exc:** 1 - Barreto**Fiscal:** Fiscal impact issued**Revenue:** No revenue impact**Prepared By:** Erin Seiler, LPRO Analyst**WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:**

Requires lobbyist statements filed with Oregon Government Ethics Commission (OGEC) to identify each topic and each measure lobbied; whether for or against and whether amendments were sought. Excludes measures of interest that lobbyist did not attempt to influence. Requires accuracy on date of filing. Provides for modification between filing dates. Permits modification without penalty so long as no complaint received by OGEC. Prohibits OGEC from imposing fine for filing inaccurate information the first time, or if OGEC determines it was a mistake. Makes new requirements for lobbyist statements operative April 1, 2018. Directs OGEC to make additional information available in searchable online format, operative August 1, 2020. Allows statements filed between April 1, 2018 and August 1, 2020 to be included as attachment to lobbying statement. Establishes Advisory Committee on Lobbying Transparency to be staffed by OGEC, to sunset January 2, 2021.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Current reporting requirements for Oregon lobbyists
- States with comprehensive reporting requirements
- Scope of reporting - what constitutes lobbying; triggers reporting
- Public's understanding of and transparency in legislative process
- Use of information reported to OGEC in campaigns
- Ability of lobbyist to report or amend position over course of legislative process
- Implementation costs of reporting system

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

Removes expanded definition of lobbyist. Removes requirement to identify "neutral" positions. Removes requirement for lobbyist to report total amount of money paid to them by person or entity. Excludes requirement to report on measures or legislative issues of interest that lobbyist did not attempt to influence. Requires accuracy of statement on date of filing. Provides for modification between filing dates. Permits modification without penalty so long as no complaint received. Provides civil penalty of up to \$500 for false or inaccurate filing. Prohibits OGEC from imposing fine for filing inaccurate information the first time, or if OGEC determines it was a mistake. Makes new requirements for lobbyist statements operative April 1, 2018. Directs OGEC to make information available in searchable format only on measures identified by lobbyists and requires searchable format to include total amount of money spent by person or entity on each lobbyist, excluding expenses. Directs OGEC to make additional information available in searchable online format, operative August 1, 2020. Allows statements filed between April 1, 2018 and August 1, 2020 to be included as attachment to lobbying statement. Establishes Advisory Committee on

This Summary has not been adopted or officially endorsed by action of the committee.

HB 2577 A STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Lobbying Transparency to be staffed by OGEC, and repeal January 2, 2021.

BACKGROUND:

Currently, a person is required to register with the Oregon Government Ethics Commission (OGEC) as a lobbyist within three business days after: exceeding an aggregate amount of 24 hours during any calendar quarter lobbying; or spending an aggregate amount in excess of \$100 lobbying during any calendar quarter; or agreeing to provide personal services for money; or any other consideration for the purpose of lobbying. A lobbyist registered with the OGEC is required to file quarterly reports that include the amount of all money spent for food, refreshments and entertainment for the purpose of lobbying and the name of any legislative or executive official to whom or for whose benefit, on any one occasion, an expenditure is made for the purposes of lobbying. If the expenditure exceeds \$50 by one or more persons on any one occasion, then the date, name of payee, purpose and amount of that expenditure must be reported. This information, and information reported on total expenditures made by clients to lobbyists and lobbying organizations, is currently available in a public, searchable database.

House Bill 2577-A expands the required information a registered lobbyist must report to OGEC on a quarterly basis to include specific information about their lobbying activities on legislative measures and legislative topics, including each measure lobbied; whether the lobbyist lobbied in favor or against; and whether the lobbyist sought amendments. However, a lobbyist is not required to report on measures they merely monitored or provided information about and did not attempt to influence. House Bill 2577-A also expands the functionality of the current OGEC database to include the new information required to be reported by lobbyists and to improve the public's ability to search and view the current information about payments made to lobbyists. Finally, the measure establishes the Advisory Committee on Lobbying Transparency to advise and assist in the development, design, testing and implementation of the expanded OGEC database.