

SB 225 A STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Carrier: Sen. Boquist

Senate Committee On Rules

Action Date: 04/19/17
Action: Do pass with amendments. (Printed A-Eng.)
Vote: 5-0-0-0
Yeas: 5 - Beyer, Boquist, Burdick, Ferrioli, Roblan
Fiscal: Has minimal fiscal impact
Revenue: No revenue impact
Prepared By: Cherie Stone, LPRO Analyst

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Permits treasurer of political or petition committee to designate elector to be liable for any civil penalty imposed for certain campaign finance reporting violations. Requires treasurer to include designee name and address on statement of organization.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

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

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

Permits treasurer of political or petition committee to designate elector to be liable for any civil penalty imposed for certain campaign finance reporting violations. Requires treasurer to include name and address of designee on statement of organization.

BACKGROUND:

Currently, ORS 260.035 states that a candidate is personally responsible for filing prescribed statements related to the organization, expenditures and contributions of a candidate committee. In addition, a candidate may serve as the treasurer of their candidate committee or may appoint an individual to serve as the treasurer of their candidate committee. If a candidate appoints a treasurer for their candidate committee, the appointed treasurer is responsible for the filing of statements regarding the organization, expenditures and contributions of the candidate committee, but the candidate is liable for any default or violation of the aforementioned filing requirements. However, current statute does not provide similar guidance regarding accountability for defaults and violations made by a political or petition committee.

Senate Bill 255-A permits the treasurer of a political or petition committee to designate an eligible voter as the liable individual for the purposes of certain campaign finance violations, and requires that a designee's name and address be included in the committee statement of organization.