

SB 44 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Carrier: Rep. Kennemer

House Committee On Rules

Action Date: 06/15/17
Action: Do Pass.
Vote: 5-0-4-0
Yeas: 5 - Barreto, Holvey, Kennemer, Smith Warner, Williamson
Exc: 4 - Hack, McLane, Nosse, Rayfield
Fiscal: Has minimal fiscal impact
Revenue: No revenue impact
Prepared By: Erin Seiler, LPRO Analyst

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Permits executive director of Oregon Government Ethics Commission (OGEC) to designate OGEC employee to fulfill any duty or responsibility of executive director.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Duties and responsibilities of OGEC executive director
- Statutorily prescribed timelines for completing review and investigations

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

No amendment.

BACKGROUND:

The Oregon Government Ethics Commission (OGEC), established by vote of the people in 1974, is a citizen commission charged with enforcing government ethics laws applicable to elections, public officials, lobbyists, and the conduct of certain private meetings by public entities, called "executive sessions." Among other things, Oregon government ethics laws prohibit public officials from using their office for financial gain; require public disclosure of economic conflicts of interest; and require lobbyists and the entities they represent to register and periodically report expenditures.

The OGEC is overseen by an executive director it selects. The work of the OGEC is supported by two investigators, two trainers, a program analyst and two office support staff who are appointed by the executive director. The executive director is responsible for the administrative operations of the OGEC as well as any other duties that are assigned by commissioners. Statute prohibits the OGEC from delegating certain powers to its executive director - its powers to adopt rules and issue advisory opinions. OGEC staff also respond to informal questions and provide information about statutes, administrative rules and OGEC processes.

Senate Bill 44 provides the executive director of OGEC with the authority to delegate to others: the executive director may designate any OGEC employee to fulfill any duty or responsibility assigned by statute or commissioners.