

House Bill 2969

Sponsored by Representatives BUEHLER, RAYFIELD

SUMMARY

The following summary is not prepared by the sponsors of the measure and is not a part of the body thereof subject to consideration by the Legislative Assembly. It is an editor's brief statement of the essential features of the measure **as introduced**.

Establishes Task Force on Combating Independent Expenditures to conduct analysis and determine how to best form commission to combat independent expenditure advertisements by third party organizations in elections in this state, with emphasis on encouraging candidates to enter into agreements similar to People's Pledge.

Sunsets task force on July 2, 2019.

Declares emergency, effective on passage.

A BILL FOR AN ACT

1
2 Relating to combating independent expenditure advertisements by third party organizations; and
3 declaring an emergency.

4 **Be It Enacted by the People of the State of Oregon:**

5 **SECTION 1. (1) The Task Force on Combating Independent Expenditures is established,**
6 **consisting of 12 members as follows:**

7 (a) **The Secretary of State shall appoint:**

8 (A) **Three members to represent the interests of political parties in Oregon, with one**
9 **member representing each of the major political parties in Oregon.**

10 (B) **One member to represent the interests of electors who are not affiliated with any**
11 **political party.**

12 (C) **One member to represent the interests of organizations that focus on campaign fi-**
13 **nance reform.**

14 (D) **One member to represent the interests of nonprofit organizations.**

15 (E) **One member to represent the interests of for-profit organizations.**

16 (b) **The Secretary of State shall serve as a member of the task force.**

17 (c) **The President of the Senate shall appoint one member from among members of the**
18 **Senate.**

19 (d) **The Senate Minority Leader shall appoint one member from among members of the**
20 **Senate.**

21 (e) **The Speaker of the House of Representatives shall appoint one member from among**
22 **members of the House of Representatives.**

23 (f) **The House Minority Leader shall appoint one member from among members of the**
24 **House of Representatives.**

25 (2)(a) **The task force shall conduct an analysis and determine how to best form a com-**
26 **mission to:**

27 (A) **Combat independent expenditure advertisements by third party organizations in**
28 **elections in this state; and**

29 (B) **Develop voluntary campaign spending limits.**

NOTE: Matter in **boldfaced** type in an amended section is new; matter [*italic and bracketed*] is existing law to be omitted. New sections are in **boldfaced** type.

1 **(b) A primary focus of the commission must be on promoting and encouraging candidates**
2 **to enter into agreements similar to the People’s Pledge entered into between Scott Brown**
3 **and Elizabeth Warren in 2012.**

4 **(c) The task force shall study:**

5 **(A) Effective ways of promoting the use of agreements similar to the People’s Pledge**
6 **among candidates for elections in this state;**

7 **(B) The appropriate size and budget of the commission;**

8 **(C) Methods of ensuring that the commission acts and is viewed as a nonpartisan entity;**
9 **and**

10 **(D) Ways of making agreements entered into by candidates legally enforceable. This**
11 **should include an analysis of the potential use of binding mediation or arbitration or any**
12 **other method of resolving disputes between candidates in a quick and cost-effective manner.**

13 **(d) In order to enhance the effectiveness of the task force, the Secretary of State shall**
14 **develop a draft agreement that could be entered into by candidates in order to further the**
15 **goals set forth in this subsection. The secretary shall distribute the draft agreement to the**
16 **members of the task force at the first meeting of the task force.**

17 **(3) A majority of the members of the task force constitutes a quorum for the transaction**
18 **of business.**

19 **(4) Official action by the task force requires the approval of a majority of the members**
20 **of the task force.**

21 **(5) The Secretary of State shall serve as chairperson of the task force.**

22 **(6) If there is a vacancy for any cause, the appointing authority shall make an appoint-**
23 **ment to become immediately effective.**

24 **(7) The task force shall meet at times and places specified by the call of the chairperson**
25 **or of a majority of the members of the task force.**

26 **(8) The task force may adopt rules necessary for the operation of the task force.**

27 **(9) The task force shall submit a report in the manner provided by ORS 192.245, and may**
28 **include recommendations for legislation, to the interim committees of the Legislative As-**
29 **sembly related to rules no later than December 31, 2017.**

30 **(10) The staff of the Committee Services Office of the Office of Legislative Policy and**
31 **Research shall provide staff support to the task force.**

32 **(11) Members of the task force who are not members of the Legislative Assembly are not**
33 **entitled to compensation, but may be reimbursed for actual and necessary travel and other**
34 **expenses incurred by them in the performance of their official duties in the manner and**
35 **amounts provided for in ORS 292.495. Claims for expenses incurred in performing functions**
36 **of the task force shall be paid out of funds appropriated to the Legislative Assembly for**
37 **purposes of the task force.**

38 **(12) All agencies of state government, as defined in ORS 174.111, are directed to assist**
39 **the task force in the performance of its duties and, to the extent permitted by laws relating**
40 **to confidentiality, to furnish such information and advice as the members of the task force**
41 **consider necessary to perform their duties.**

42 **SECTION 2. Section 1 of this 2017 Act is repealed on July 2, 2019.**

43 **SECTION 3. This 2017 Act being necessary for the immediate preservation of the public**
44 **peace, health and safety, an emergency is declared to exist, and this 2017 Act takes effect**
45 **on its passage.**

