



LPRO: LEGISLATIVE POLICY AND RESEARCH OFFICE

# COMPENSATION FOR STATE BOARD AND COMMISSION MEMBERS

## ISSUE BRIEF

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This Issue Brief describes the current statutory authority for, and limitations to, providing stipends and reimbursing expenses for members of state boards, commissions, and task forces.

### STATE BOARDS, COMMISSIONS, AND TASK FORCES

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The Governor makes appointments to over 250 Boards and Commissions connected to various policy and subject matter areas, including to policy-making boards that head major state agencies and departments. The Legislative Assembly also creates task forces, typically for a time-limited assignment, to examine a specific policy issue and make recommendations for further action, including legislation. Members of task forces may be appointed by the Governor, other elected or appointed officials, legislative leadership, or some combination thereof, to represent certain interests, backgrounds, and experiences directly related to the task force's purpose.

### STATUTORY AUTHORITY

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Oregon law allows for, but does not require, per diem and reimbursement for certain travel expenses for all state boards and commissions. Unless otherwise specified in statute, this is the sole authorization for the compensation of appointees. [ORS 292.495](#) allows for:

1. compensation of board or commission members who are not public employees for each day or portion of a day in which they spend time performing board or commission duties; and
2. reimbursement of certain expenses.<sup>1</sup>

The ORS 292.495 authority for compensation or expense reimbursement is limited to boards or commissions where funds are available and where the allowance of compensation or expenses is not otherwise prohibited by statute. One example of a statutory limitation is the language for the Medicaid Long Term Care Quality and Reimbursement Advisory Council, which states that "members of the council shall receive no compensation for their services, but unpaid volunteers not otherwise

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<sup>1</sup> [ORS 292.495](#) (2019)

compensated shall be allowed actual and necessary travel expenses incurred in the performance of their duties.”<sup>2</sup>

Payment of compensation or expenses for members of task forces is often limited by enabling legislation. The 2020 measure to establish a Task Force on High School Diploma Requirements would have stipulated that “members of the task force who are not members of the Legislative Assembly are not entitled to compensation or reimbursement for expenses and serve as volunteers on the task force.”<sup>3</sup>

Payment to board and commission members may also be limited by statutory language that conditions payments to specifically appropriated funding. One example of this language is included in the Oregon Growth Board statutes, where compensation and reimbursement for expenses are allowed per ORS 292.495, but “claims for compensation and expenses incurred in performing the functions of the board shall be paid out of funds appropriated to the board for that purpose.”<sup>4</sup>

## CURRENT COMPENSATION TO BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS

Information provided by the Department of Administrative Services (DAS) for approximately 235 state boards and commissions shows that about two-thirds pay mileage expenses to all members while just over half pay compensation or per diem to all members. Table 1 shows the number of boards and commissions that DAS has identified as paying members a salary, mileage expenses, and/or per diem.

**Table 1: Number of State Boards and Commissions  
Making Payments to Members**

Pay Salary	Pay Mileage Expenses	Pay Per Diem
7	159	120

Source: Legislative Policy and Research Office  
Data: Department of Administrative Services<sup>5</sup>

<sup>2</sup> [ORS 410.550 \(3\)](#) (2019)

<sup>3</sup> [Senate Bill 1572](#) (2020).

<sup>4</sup> [ORS 284.883](#) (2019)

<sup>5</sup> Email from Adam Crawford, Government Relations Director, Department of Administrative Services, to Melissa Leoni, Analyst, Legislative Policy and Research Office (September 8, 2020 8:27 AM) (on file with source).