Senate Bill 744

Sponsored by JOINT COMMITTEE ON CAPITOL CULTURE

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 Joint Committee on Conduct and Legislative Equity Office. Charges joint committee with oversight of equity office, including selection of principal investigator and principal outreach officer. Sets forth duties of principal officers and delineates which duties must be performed by principal investigator and which duties must be performed by principal outreach officer. Sets forth respectful workplace, harassment avoidance and reporting training requirements, and culture and climate survey requirements. Establishes Capitol Leadership Team to foster mentoring and provision of informal resources of information for promoting respectful workplace.

Declares emergency, effective on passage.

A BILL FOR AN ACT

Relating to the establishment of a legislative office to address workplace conduct; creating new provisions; amending ORS 171.415 and 244.050; and declaring an emergency.

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

SECTION 1. (1) The Joint Committee on Conduct is established as a joint committee of the Legislative Assembly.

(2) The Legislative Equity Office is established as a nonpartisan office of the Legislative Assembly that is independent of any other nonpartisan office.

(3) The committee shall select two principal officers of the equity office:

(a) One of whom shall serve as the principal investigator; and

(b) The other of whom shall serve as the principal outreach officer.

(4) The committee shall fix the annual salaries of the principal officers. Subject to the limitations otherwise provided by law for expenses of state officers, the principal officers shall be reimbursed for actual and necessary expenses incurred or paid by the principal officers in the performance of duties of the principal officers.

(5) The principal officers serve at the pleasure of the committee.

(6) The committee shall:

(a) Receive from the equity office annual reports described in section 4 of this 2019 Act and any other reports as the committee or office determines is warranted;

(b) Provide office facilities for the equity office that are sufficiently independent to ensure that the office operates independently of any other legislative branch organization, including but not limited to authorizing the office to maintain facilities that are located near but outside of the Capitol;

(c) Ensure that the equity office possesses all possible indicia of independence from the other parts of the legislative branch and that the principal investigator and the principal outreach officer be independent of each other in the performance of their duties;

(d) Provide ongoing direction and oversight for continual updating of the training described in section 6 of this 2019 Act;

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.

LC 3736
(e) Provide policy direction and oversight to the equity office; and

(f) Perform other duties as assigned by joint rules of the Legislative Assembly.

(7) If legislative rules assign a function described in Article IV, section 15, of the Oregon Constitution, to a Committee on Conduct of the Senate or the House of Representatives:

(a) Those members of the Joint Committee on Conduct who are Senators may serve as the Senate Committee on Conduct;

(b) Those members of the Joint Committee on Conduct who are Representatives may serve as the House Committee on Conduct; and

(c) In any hearing to perform a function described in Article IV, section 15, of the Oregon Constitution, the members of the Joint Committee on Conduct who serve in the same legislative chamber as the member facing discipline may serve as voting members of the committee on conduct of that chamber and Joint Committee on Conduct members of the other legislative chamber may attend and be seated at the dais as nonvoting observers.

(8) Notwithstanding subsection (7) of this section, a member of the Joint Committee on Conduct shall be recused from service on a committee on conduct performing functions under Article IV, section 15, of the Oregon Constitution, if the facts and circumstances at issue could impair the member's ability to act impartially and without bias. In the event of a recusal, the appointing authority shall appoint an acting member until the functions performed under Article IV, section 15, of the Oregon Constitution, have been resolved.

SECTION 2. (1)(a) The Joint Committee on Conduct shall consist of two Senators appointed by the Senate Majority Leader, two Senators appointed by the Senate Minority Leader, two Representatives appointed by the House Majority Leader and two Representatives appointed by the House Minority Leader. The Speaker of the House of Representatives and the President of the Senate may each designate, from among the members of the appropriate legislative chamber, majority party and minority party alternates to exercise powers as members of the committee.

(b) The appointing authorities shall appoint members of a new committee within 15 days after the date of the convening of an organizational session of the odd-numbered year regular session of the Legislative Assembly.

(2)(a) The term of a member of the committee shall expire upon the earlier of:

(A) The date of the convening of the odd-numbered year regular session of the Legislative Assembly next following the member's appointment; or

(B) The date another member is appointed to the committee under subsection (1) of this section.

(b) Vacancies occurring in the membership of the committee shall be filled by the appointing authority so as to ensure an equal number of majority party and minority party members from the appropriate legislative chamber.

(3) The President and the Speaker may not exercise any authority otherwise vested in their offices by chamber rules to temporarily appoint themselves as voting members of the committee.

(4) The committee has a continuing existence and may meet, act and conduct its business during the sessions of the Legislative Assembly or any recess thereof, and in the interim period between sessions, but the committee has no authority to affect the rules of either legislative chamber.

(5) The committee may not transact business unless a quorum is present. A quorum
consists of a majority of committee members from the House of Representatives and a majority of committee members from the Senate.

(6) Action by the committee requires the affirmative vote of a majority of committee members from the House of Representatives and a majority of committee members from the Senate.

SECTION 3. (1) The expiration of the terms of members of the Joint Committee on Conduct, as provided in section 2 of this 2019 Act, does not affect the employment of any individual filling a position previously approved by the committee.

(2) Notwithstanding sections 1 and 2 of this 2019 Act, if a vacancy occurs in the position of a principal officer of the Legislative Equity Office after the expiration of the terms of members and before the appointment of members of a new Joint Committee on Conduct, the President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of Representatives may jointly select an acting replacement for the vacated principal officer. The acting principal officer selected by the President and the Speaker serves at their pleasure at a salary jointly fixed by the President and the Speaker that does not exceed the salary last fixed by the committee. The President and Speaker may act in lieu of the committee under ORS 293.335 in designating the principal officer they select to approve disbursements and in filing the statement of designation. After appointment of a Joint Committee on Conduct, the acting principal officer selected under this subsection serves at the pleasure of the committee. The committee may appoint the acting principal officer as the principal officer or may appoint another individual as principal officer.

SECTION 4. (1) The principal officers of the Legislative Equity Office shall:

(a) Prepare and present an annual report to the Joint Committee on Conduct. The annual report shall include:

(A) A description of the activities of the office since the last report;

(B) A detailed description of the training curricula and subjects addressed in the training described in section 6 of this 2019 Act;

(C) Statistics that list the number of confidential disclosures, nonconfidential reports and formal complaints made under any applicable rule, policy or law establishing standards of conduct and procedures to address deviations from that standard in the legislative branch and the number of investigations conducted, except that statistics reported under this subparagraph may not disclose any characteristics that would permit confidential identities to be determined or inferred;

(D) The results, or a summary of the results, of the most recent culture and climate survey undertaken by the office under section 9 of this 2019 Act; and

(E) Any other information required by the committee.

(b) Establish and maintain a Capitol Leadership Team to perform the duties described in section 11 of this 2019 Act.

(2) The principal officers may employ and fix the compensation of such professional assistants and other employees as the principal officers deem necessary for the work under their charge.

(3) The principal officers may enter into contracts to carry out the functions of the Legislative Equity Office.

SECTION 5. (1) The Legislative Equity Office principal investigator shall:

(a) Receive complaints and reports alleging harassment or other conduct that is asserted
to violate standards of conduct prescribed by legislative branch personnel rules;

(b) Conduct investigations, determine facts, write investigative reports and report outcomes of investigations to appointing authorities or other persons or entities identified in legislative branch personnel rules or chamber rules as recipients of principal investigator reports;

(c) Make recommendations regarding interim safety measures to appointing authorities or other persons or entities identified in legislative branch personnel rules or chamber rules as recipients of principal investigator recommendations on interim safety measures; and

(d) Recruit and contract with one or more individuals with experience and expertise in the conduct of workplace investigations who also are unaffiliated with the legislative branch to perform the investigations and make the reports and recommendations described in this section if:

(A) Legislative branch personnel rules or chamber rules require an outside investigator; or

(B) The principal investigator determines that an outside investigator is best suited to conduct an impartial, unbiased and robust investigation.

(2) The principal investigator may not have access to confidential files and records of the Legislative Equity Office principal outreach officer.

SECTION 6. (1) The Legislative Equity Office principal outreach officer shall at least annually conduct a minimum of two hours of respectful workplace training, including training on:

(a) Legislative branch workplace harassment avoidance policies and rules; and

(b) Legislative branch procedures and rules for reporting or filing complaints to address instances of harassment.

(2) The training described in subsection (1) of this section must be attended annually by all legislators, legislative staff and legislative interns and volunteers. Employees of contractors who reasonably expect to be regularly present in the Capitol must also attend the training described in subsection (1) of this section. Lobbyists and executive branch and judicial branch personnel who are regularly present in the Capitol may be invited to attend the training. The principal outreach officer shall record attendance at the trainings and shall make attendance records publicly available.

(3)(a) The principal outreach officer shall make the training described in subsection (1) of this section available online. The principal outreach officer shall maintain records of all persons who have taken online training and shall make those records publicly available.

(b) The online training described in this subsection is intended to be a last-resort alternative to the in-person training described in subsection (1) of this section. An individual required to attend training under this section may substitute online training for in-person attendance only once in any two-year period.

(4) The principal outreach officer shall make the training described in subsection (1) of this section available at multiple times throughout the year and shall strive to present the training in small group settings and employ best practices to maximize attendance at in-person trainings.

(5) The principal outreach officer shall develop training content that:

(a) Describes conduct that constitutes harassment under legislative branch personnel rules or other law;
(b) Includes specific guidance addressing subtle forms of discrimination and harassment that become unlawful because of the pervasiveness of the conduct;
(c) Provides training on available methods of reporting harassment;
(d) Describes supervisor obligations to report harassment;
(e) Explains the authority every individual has to withdraw consent to intimate conduct and addresses challenges associated with consensual relationships in the workplace;
(f) Provides examples of positive workplace behaviors and constructive working relationships;
(g) Teaches the skills necessary for individuals to become active bystanders who promote culture change and oppose harassing behavior they observe in the workplace;
(h) Discourages behavior that does not promote a productive and inclusive work environment; and
(i) Conveys the human impact and harm to the work environment that harassment causes.

(6) The principal outreach officer may contract with other persons or entities with experience performing harassment avoidance and respectful workplace training for the performance of the training described in this section.

SECTION 7. Section 6 of this 2019 Act is amended to read:

Sec. 6. (1) The Legislative Equity Office principal outreach officer shall at least annually conduct a minimum of two hours of respectful workplace training, including training on:
(a) Legislative branch workplace harassment avoidance policies and rules; and
(b) Legislative branch procedures and rules for reporting or filing complaints to address instances of harassment.

(2) The training described in subsection (1) of this section must be attended annually by all legislators, legislative staff, legislative interns and volunteers and lobbyists who are required to register with the Oregon Government Ethics Commission. Employees of contractors who reasonably expect to be regularly present in the Capitol must also attend the training described in subsection (1) of this section. Lobbyists and Executive branch and judicial branch personnel who are regularly present in the Capitol may be invited to attend the training. The principal outreach officer shall record attendance at the trainings and shall make attendance records publicly available.

(3)(a) The principal outreach officer shall make the training described in subsection (1) of this section available online. The principal outreach officer shall maintain records of all persons who have taken online training and shall make those records publicly available.
(b) The online training described in this subsection is intended to be a last-resort alternative to the in-person training described in subsection (1) of this section. An individual required to attend training under this section may substitute online training for in-person attendance only once in any two-year period.

(4) The principal outreach officer shall make the training described in subsection (1) of this section available at multiple times throughout the year and shall strive to present the training in small group settings and employ best practices to maximize attendance at in-person trainings.

(5) The principal outreach officer shall develop training content that:
(a) Describes conduct that constitutes harassment under legislative branch personnel rules or other law;
(b) Includes specific guidance addressing subtle forms of discrimination and harassment that

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become unlawful because of the pervasiveness of the conduct;

c) Provides training on available methods of reporting harassment;

d) Describes supervisor obligations to report harassment;

e) Explains the authority every individual has to withdraw consent to intimate conduct and addresses challenges associated with consensual relationships in the workplace;

f) Provides examples of positive workplace behaviors and constructive working relationships;

g) Teaches the skills necessary for individuals to become active bystanders who promote culture change and oppose harassing behavior they observe in the workplace;

h) Discourages behavior that does not promote a productive and inclusive work environment; and

i) Conveys the human impact and harm to the work environment that harassment causes.

(6) The principal outreach officer may contract with other persons or entities with experience performing harassment avoidance and respectful workplace training for the performance of the training described in this section.

SECTION 8. The amendments to section 6 of this 2019 Act by section 7 of this 2019 Act become operative on January 1, 2023.

SECTION 9. (1) The Legislative Equity Office principal outreach officer shall regularly conduct culture and climate surveys of legislators, legislative staff, lobbyists and others who regularly interact with the legislative branch to ascertain the alignment between stated legislative branch policies and goals relating to workplace culture and standards of behavior, and actual beliefs and experiences of those who work in the legislative branch or regularly interact with the legislative branch. The principal outreach officer shall make the results of culture and climate surveys publicly available.

(2) The principal outreach officer may contract with other persons or entities with experience conducting culture and climate surveys to conduct the surveys described in subsection (1) of this section.

SECTION 10. (1) The Legislative Equity Office principal outreach officer shall be available to receive information from any individual about harassing behavior occurring in the Capitol or involving legislators, legislative staff, lobbyists or others who are present in the Capitol or who engage with legislators, legislative staff or lobbyists, whether in the Capitol or elsewhere.

(2) The principal outreach officer shall provide confidential process counseling to individuals who believe they have experienced or observed harassment, including but not limited to:

(a) Providing information on legislative branch personnel rules and policies, formal complaint and informal reporting processes;

(b) Providing information on the extent to which information may be kept confidential or may be subject to disclosure; and

(c) Providing advice on whether proffered facts might constitute harassment.

(3) The principal outreach officer may not engage in any investigation following a report or complaint alleging harassment or following any consultation described in subsection (1) or (2) of this section.

(4) The principal outreach officer may not share any information acquired during a consultation described in subsection (1) or (2) of this section with the Legislative Equity Office principal investigator or any person hired to perform an investigation under legislative
branch personnel rules, except that if the principal outreach officer identifies a pattern of behavior that, if true, would amount to pervasive harassment under legislative branch personnel rules, the principal outreach officer may undertake specific training efforts to address identified patterns of objectionable behavior while preserving the anonymity of individuals who reported facts that show such patterns of objectionable behavior.

SECTION 11. (1) The Legislative Equity Office shall establish and maintain a Capitol Leadership Team, consisting of legislators, legislative staff, lobbyists, executive and judicial branch staff who regularly interact with the legislative branch, employees of contractors who regularly interact with the legislative branch, and interested members of the public, who have an interest in promoting a productive and inclusive environment in the Capitol and at functions and events outside of the Capitol at which legislators, staff, lobbyists and others interact.

(2) The Legislative Equity Office shall provide members of the Capitol Leadership Team with advanced respectful workplace training, with an emphasis in implementing cultural change in the workplace.

(3) Capitol Leadership Team members shall serve as mentors and informal resources of information for others who are interested in promoting a more respectful workplace or who are facing challenges in the workplace.

(4) The Capitol Leadership Team shall identify additional services or additional training needs and shall report those identified additional services or training needs to the equity office and to the Joint Committee on Conduct.

SECTION 12. ORS 171.415 is amended to read:

171.415. (1) Except as provided in subsections (2) and (3) of this section, a committee or employee of the Legislative Assembly having possession of legislative records that are not required for the regular performance of official duties shall, within 10 days after the adjournment sine die of a regular or special session, deliver all such legislative records to the Legislative Administration Committee.

(2) The chairperson, member or employee of a legislative interim committee responsible for maintaining the legislative records of that committee shall, within 10 days after the committee ceases to function or before January 1 next preceding the beginning of an odd-numbered year regular session of the Legislative Assembly, whichever is earlier, deliver all such legislative records to the Legislative Administration Committee.

(3) This section does not apply to the records of the Emergency Board, the Legislative Administration Committee, the Legislative Counsel Committee, the Legislative Policy and Research Committee, the Legislative Equity Office or the Joint Committee on Ways and Means.

SECTION 13. ORS 244.050 is amended to read:

244.050. (1) On or before April 15 of each year the following persons shall file with the Oregon Government Ethics Commission a verified statement of economic interest as required under this chapter:

(a) The Governor, Secretary of State, State Treasurer, Attorney General, Commissioner of the Bureau of Labor and Industries, district attorneys and members of the Legislative Assembly.

(b) Any judicial officer, including justices of the peace and municipal judges, except any pro tem judicial officer who does not otherwise serve as a judicial officer.

(c) Any candidate for a public office designated in paragraph (a) or (b) of this subsection.

(d) The Deputy Attorney General.
(e) The Deputy Secretary of State.

(f) The Legislative Administrator, the Legislative Counsel, the Legislative Fiscal Officer, the Legislative Policy and Research Director, the Secretary of the Senate, [and] the Chief Clerk of the House of Representatives and the principal officers of the Legislative Equity Office.

(g) The president and vice presidents, or their administrative equivalents, in each public university listed in ORS 352.002.

(h) The following state officers:
   (A) Adjutant General.
   (B) Director of Agriculture.
   (C) Manager of State Accident Insurance Fund Corporation.
   (D) Water Resources Director.
   (E) Director of Department of Environmental Quality.
   (F) Director of Oregon Department of Administrative Services.
   (G) State Fish and Wildlife Director.
   (H) State Forester.
   (I) State Geologist.
   (J) Director of Human Services.
   (K) Director of the Department of Consumer and Business Services.
   (L) Director of the Department of State Lands.
   (M) State Librarian.
   (N) Administrator of Oregon Liquor Control Commission.
   (O) Superintendent of State Police.
   (P) Director of the Public Employees Retirement System.
   (Q) Director of Department of Revenue.
   (R) Director of Transportation.
   (S) Public Utility Commissioner.
   (T) Director of Veterans’ Affairs.
   (U) Executive director of Oregon Government Ethics Commission.
   (V) Director of the State Department of Energy.
   (W) Director and each assistant director of the Oregon State Lottery.
   (X) Director of the Department of Corrections.
   (Y) Director of the Oregon Department of Aviation.
   (Z) Executive director of the Oregon Criminal Justice Commission.
   (AA) Director of the Oregon Business Development Department.
   (BB) Director of the Office of Emergency Management.
   (CC) Director of the Employment Department.
   (DD) Chief of staff for the Governor.
   (EE) Director of the Housing and Community Services Department.
   (FF) State Court Administrator.
   (GG) Director of the Department of Land Conservation and Development.
   (HH) Board chairperson of the Land Use Board of Appeals.
   (II) State Marine Director.
   (JJ) Executive director of the Oregon Racing Commission.
   (KK) State Parks and Recreation Director.
   (LL) Public defense services executive director.
(MM) Chairperson of the Public Employees’ Benefit Board.
(NN) Director of the Department of Public Safety Standards and Training.
(OO) Executive director of the Higher Education Coordinating Commission.
(PP) Executive director of the Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board.
(QQ) Director of the Oregon Youth Authority.
(RR) Director of the Oregon Health Authority.
(SS) Deputy Superintendent of Public Instruction.
(i) The First Partner, the legal counsel, the deputy legal counsel and all policy advisors within
the Governor’s office.
(j) Every elected city or county official.
(k) Every member of a city or county planning, zoning or development commission.
(L) The chief executive officer of a city or county who performs the duties of manager or prin-
cipal administrator of the city or county.
(m) Members of local government boundary commissions formed under ORS 199.410 to 199.519.
(n) Every member of a governing body of a metropolitan service district and the auditor and
executive officer thereof.
(o) Each member of the board of directors of the State Accident Insurance Fund Corporation.
(p) The chief administrative officer and the financial officer of each common and union high
school district, education service district and community college district.
(q) Every member of the following state boards and commissions:
   (A) Governing board of the State Department of Geology and Mineral Industries.
   (B) Oregon Business Development Commission.
   (C) State Board of Education.
   (D) Environmental Quality Commission.
   (E) Fish and Wildlife Commission of the State of Oregon.
   (F) State Board of Forestry.
   (G) Oregon Government Ethics Commission.
   (H) Oregon Health Policy Board.
   (I) Oregon Investment Council.
   (K) Oregon Liquor Control Commission.
   (L) Oregon Short Term Fund Board.
   (M) State Marine Board.
   (N) Mass transit district boards.
   (O) Energy Facility Siting Council.
   (P) Board of Commissioners of the Port of Portland.
   (Q) Employment Relations Board.
   (R) Public Employees Retirement Board.
   (S) Oregon Racing Commission.
   (T) Oregon Transportation Commission.
   (U) Water Resources Commission.
   (V) Workers’ Compensation Board.
   (W) Oregon Facilities Authority.
   (X) Oregon State Lottery Commission.
(Z) Columbia River Gorge Commission.

(AA) Oregon Health and Science University Board of Directors.

(BB) Capitol Planning Commission.

(CC) Higher Education Coordinating Commission.

(DD) Oregon Growth Board.

(EE) Early Learning Council.

(r) The following officers of the State Treasurer:

(A) Deputy State Treasurer.

(B) Chief of staff for the office of the State Treasurer.

(C) Director of the Investment Division.

(s) Every member of the board of commissioners of a port governed by ORS 777.005 to 777.725 or 777.915 to 777.953.

(t) Every member of the board of directors of an authority created under ORS 441.525 to 441.595.

(u) Every member of a governing board of a public university listed in ORS 352.002.

(v) Every member of the board of directors of an authority created under ORS 465.600 to 465.621.

(2) By April 15 next after the date an appointment takes effect, every appointed public official on a board or commission listed in subsection (1) of this section shall file with the Oregon Government Ethics Commission a statement of economic interest as required under ORS 244.060, 244.070 and 244.090.

(3) By April 15 next after the filing deadline for the primary election, each candidate described in subsection (1) of this section shall file with the commission a statement of economic interest as required under ORS 244.060, 244.070 and 244.090.

(4) Not later than the 40th day before the date of the statewide general election, each candidate described in subsection (1) of this section who will appear on the statewide general election ballot and who was not required to file a statement of economic interest under subsections (1) to (3) of this section shall file with the commission a statement of economic interest as required under ORS 244.060, 244.070 and 244.090.

(5) Subsections (1) to (3) of this section apply only to persons who are incumbent, elected or appointed public officials as of April 15 and to persons who are candidates on April 15.

(6) If a statement required to be filed under this section has not been received by the commission within five days after the date the statement is due, the commission shall notify the public official or candidate and give the public official or candidate not less than 15 days to comply with the requirements of this section. If the public official or candidate fails to comply by the date set by the commission, the commission may impose a civil penalty as provided in ORS 244.350.

SECTION 14. This 2019 Act being necessary for the immediate preservation of the public peace, health and safety, an emergency is declared to exist, and this 2019 Act takes effect on its passage.