

HB 4123

Good Government Ethics & Campaign Transparency

Problem:

Conflict of Interest Disclosure

Many Oregon legislators are business owners. Oregon legislators are currently required to disclose things such as what businesses they own and personal income exceeding \$1,000 from an entity or person with a government contract or a financial interest in legislative matters. Due to loopholes in the Statement of Economic Interest form, legislators are not required to disclose income received by a business they own from individuals or entities that have an interest in matters coming before the legislature.

Profiting from Campaign Funds

Oregon's current system does not allow for candidates to use campaign funds for personal income, meaning they cannot directly take campaign dollars and use them for purchases unrelated to the campaign. However, they can use campaign funds to pay a business they own if the purchase is related to the campaign. For example, a candidate who owns a printing company can use campaign funds to purchase printing services from their own business.

What HB 4123 Does:

Conflict of Interest Disclosure Fix

HB 4123 would **require SEI forms to include more information about a candidate's business**, specifically sources of income from business or entities that are 10% or more of total gross annual income or if the directorship has a legislative or administrative interest. Other states that require lawmakers to disclose more include Alabama, California, Kansas and Maine.

Profiting from Campaign Funds Fix

HB 4123 would also **which will prohibit a candidate or their principal campaign committee from using campaign contributions at a business they own or receive money from**. In addition to the candidates themselves, HB 4123 adds:

- Businesses listed on a statement of economic interest (ORS 244.060)
- Makes an exception for the following:
 - Public bodies
 - Federal agencies
 - Public utilities
 - Regularly published news publications
 - Telecommunications providers
 - Internet service providers with a majority of the market share in their area of purchase