HB 4104 -1 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

House Committee On Rules

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Meeting Dates: 2/13

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Allows contributions received by a candidate, the principal campaign committee of a candidate, or the principal campaign committee of a holder of public office to be used to defray expenses related to providing certain caregiving or health insurance premiums during the period beginning when the candidate or office holder files a declaration of candidacy, nominating petition, or certificate of nomination to public office and ending when the candidate or office holder wins election or ceases to be a candidate. Defines caregiving as the care or supervision of a relative of the candidate or office holder that includes babysitting, child care, and care provided to an elderly or disabled individual for the purpose of maintaining the individual at a place of temporary or permanent residence. Applies to eligible expenses that occur on or after January 1, 2021.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

-1 Removes health insurance premiums from eligible uses of campaign contributions and revises caregiving definition to include, but not be limited to, care or supervision of a child under 13 years of age, or under 18 years of age under certain circumstances, and care provided to an elderly or disabled individual for the purpose of maintaining the individual at a place of temporary or permanent residence.

BACKGROUND:

In Oregon, all contributions and expenditures related to any candidate, measure, or political party active in any election, including initiative, referendum, and recall petition drives are required to be disclosed. All campaign finance transactions are required to be filed electronically using the Secretary of State's Oregon Elections System for Tracking and Reporting (ORESTAR). Campaign finance regulations are specified in ORS Chapter 260.

In addition to contributions, all expenditures made by state and local candidates, campaigns, and political action committees are required to be disclosed using ORESTAR. Contributions may be used to defray any expenses incurred in connection with the recipient's duties as a holder of public office; transferred to any national, state or local political committee of any political party; contributed to certain charitable organizations; or used for any other lawful purpose. Contributions may not be converted to any personal use other than to defray any expenses incurred in connection with the person's duties as a holder of public office or to repay to a candidate any loan for funds used in connection with the candidate's campaign.

House Bill 4104 allows a candidate, the principal campaign committee of a candidate, or the principal campaign committee of a holder of public office to use contributions to defray expenses related to providing certain caregiving or health insurance premiums when the candidate or holder of public office is campaigning for public office.