

SB 262 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Senate Committee On Rules

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Meeting Dates: 3/18

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Prohibits member of Legislative Assembly who is absent and unexcused when Legislative Assembly is in session from receiving salary, per diem, or expense reimbursement, and imposes fine of \$500 per day of unexcused absence. Prohibits contributions collected by candidate, principal campaign committee, and political committee from being used to pay fines, pay legal fees, defray expenses, or otherwise compensate member of Legislative Assembly for monetary losses incurred as a result of unexcused absences from sessions of Legislative Assembly.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

No amendment.

BACKGROUND:

House Rule 3.03 states that a member shall attend all sessions of the House, unless an Excused Absence Request is filed with the Chief Clerk 48 hours in advance. The rule also states that if an unexcused absence prevents a quorum from being met, the House may impose a Call of the House, per Article IV, Section 12 of the Oregon Constitution, and, if a quorum is still not met, then the House may impose a \$500 fine on the member per session day of unexcused absence.

Senate Rule 3.10 states that a member shall attend all sessions of the Senate unless excused by the President. Senate Rule 3.01 states that if a quorum is not met, the Senate may adjourn day to day and compel the attendance of absent members. Senate Rule 3.55 allows three members to demand a Call of the Senate, upon which the Sergeant at Arms shall cause all unexcused members to come to the floor. If the Sergeant at Arms cannot find any unexcused member, that shall be reported to the President.

Senate Bill 262 enacts monetary penalties for unexcused absences and prohibits the use of certain contributions to pay related fines, legal fees, expenses.