

HB 2992 A STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Carrier: Rep. Smith Warner

House Committee On Rules**Action Date:** 04/06/21**Action:** Do pass with amendments and rescind subsequent referral to Ways and Means. (Printed A-Eng.)**Vote:** 5-2-0-0**Yeas:** 5 - Fahey, Holvey, Salinas, Smith Warner, Zika**Nays:** 2 - Bonham, Drazan**Fiscal:** Fiscal impact issued**Revenue:** No revenue impact**Prepared By:** Melissa Leoni, LPRO Analyst**Meeting Dates:** 2/25, 3/23, 4/6**WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:**

Increases amount of compensation to members of state boards and commissions for time spent in performance of official duties, unless otherwise limited or prohibited, to equal the per diem paid to members of the Legislative Assembly. Requires state boards and commissions to pay compensation and reimbursement of actual and necessary travel or other expenses to a qualified member who is not in full-time public service and has an adjusted gross income for the previous tax year of less than \$50,000, or less than \$100,000 reported on a joint income tax return. Allows board or commission member to decline compensation or reimbursement. Takes effect on 91st day following adjournment sine die.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Reducing systemic barriers to participation in state policymaking boards and commissions
- Evaluating effectiveness and outcomes
- Role of technology and remote options for state board and commission meetings
- Attesting to eligibility rather than providing tax returns
- Compensation and expense payments being taxable

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

Replaces the measure.

BACKGROUND:

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. Oregon law allows state board and commission members to be paid for: per diem costs and reimbursement of certain travel expenses; compensation for members who are not public employees for each day or portion thereof during which they spend time performing board or commission duties; and the reimbursement of certain expenses. The daily compensation rate is currently set in statute at \$30. Member compensation or expense reimbursement can be prohibited and may be contingent on available funding. Information provided by the Department of Administrative Services in 2020 for approximately 235 state boards and commissions showed that about two-thirds pay mileage expenses while just over half pay compensation or per diem to all members.

House Bill 2992 A increases the daily compensation rate to equal the per diem paid to members of the Legislative Assembly, which is currently \$151, and requires state agencies to pay compensation and reimbursement of actual and necessary travel or other expenses to a qualified member who is not in full-time public service and has a certain adjusted gross income for the previous tax year.