

SB 60 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Carrier: Rep. Bonham

House Committee On Rules

Action Date: 05/18/21

Action: Do Pass.

Vote: 6-1-0-0

Yeas: 6 - Bonham, Drazan, Fahey, Holvey, Salinas, Smith Warner

Nays: 1 - Zika

Fiscal: No fiscal impact

Revenue: No revenue impact

Prepared By: Melissa Leoni, LPRO Analyst

Meeting Dates: 5/7, 5/18

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Extends time period for Oregon Government Ethics Commission (OGEC) to complete Preliminary Review Phase of alleged violations of ethics laws from 30 calendar days to 60 calendar days. Applies to filed written complaints or OGEC decision to proceed on its own motion on or after January 1, 2022.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Timing to complete the Preliminary Review Phase
- Secretary of State audit recommendations

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

No amendment.

BACKGROUND:

Oregon law states that any individual may submit, in writing, a complaint with the Oregon Government Ethics Commission (OGEC) alleging a violation of ethics laws. It also allows the OGEC to proceed on its own motion, as though it received a complaint, if it has reason to believe that a violation exists. The first step in either process is the Preliminary Review Phase, during which the OGEC Executive Director determines whether there is cause to undertake an investigation. The OGEC currently has 30 calendar days to complete the Preliminary Review Phase of alleged violations of ethics laws. Senate Bill 60 extends that review period to 60 calendar days.