

SCR 15 -1 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Joint Committee On Conduct

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Meeting Dates: 4/24

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Appoints the Legislative Equity Officer.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

-1 Deletes blank and names Bor Yang to be appointed the Legislative Equity Officer.

BACKGROUND:

Oregon Laws 2019, Chapter 604 (House Bill 3377), established the Joint Committee on Conduct and the independent, nonpartisan Legislative Equity Office, which is led by the Legislative Equity Officer (LEO). The Joint Committee on Conduct is composed of the members of the Senate Committee on Conduct appointed by the Senate and the House Committee on Conduct appointed by the House of Representatives at the start of each Legislative Assembly. The Committee may recruit, conduct interviews, and make recommendations for the appointment of the Legislative Equity Officer by the Legislative Assembly. ORS 173.900 (2021) requires the Legislative Assembly to select a LEO by concurrent resolution. The appointed LEO serves for a four-year term and is eligible for reappointment to succeeding terms. The LEO may be removed for cause by the Committee.

Under Legislative Branch Personnel Rule 27, the legislative branch has committed to promoting a respectful and inclusive environment in the State Capitol and in any setting in which conduct has the ability to create a Capitol environment that is intimidating, hostile, or offensive, or may constitute conduct that amounts to retaliation. The LEO is integral to the legislative branch achieving these goals because the officer is charged with implementing and overseeing the processes and procedures to address behaviors prohibited by branch rules and policies. The LEO is also charged with developing and implementing training to be given to members, legislative staff, registered lobbyists, and others on developing a respectful workplace, eliminating harassment, eliminating sexual harassment, and eliminating discrimination in the workplace, and on the obligations, processes, and remedies that exist to achieve these outcomes.

Senate Concurrent Resolution 15 appoints the Legislative Equity Officer.