

SB 661 A STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Carrier: Sen. Knopp, Sen. Taylor

Senate Committee On Rules

Action Date: 03/21/23

Action: Do pass with amendments. (Printed A-Eng.)

Vote: 4-0-1-0

Yeas: 4 - Hansell, Knopp, Lieber, Manning Jr

Exc: 1 - Steiner

Fiscal: No fiscal impact

Revenue: No revenue impact

Prepared By: Leslie Porter, LPRO Analyst

Meeting Dates: 2/28, 3/21

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Prohibits lobbyist from serving as chairperson of interim committee, legislative work group, or legislative task force staffed by nonpartisan staff of the legislative department. Excludes public official who lobbies from prohibition.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- The reliance on lobbyists for their expertise versus chairing certain public bodies
- Not allowing private money to facilitate a public process
- Applicability to full-time registered lobbyists versus public officials who occasionally engage in lobbying activity
- Distinction between work groups, task forces, and interim committees that are and are not staffed by nonpartisan staff

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

Replaces the measure.

BACKGROUND:

ORS 171.635 and ORS 171.640 allow the Senate President and the Speaker of the House of Representatives to appoint individuals, other than members of the Legislative Assembly, to serve on interim committees, and to appoint a chairperson. Task Force membership is delineated in enabling legislation, and work group membership does not require legislation.

Senate Bill 661 A prohibits a lobbyist, except a public official who lobbies, from serving as the chairperson of an interim committee, legislative work group, or legislative task force staffed by nonpartisan staff of the Legislative Assembly.