

House Bill 2850

Sponsored by Representative EVANS (Pre-session filed.)

SUMMARY

The following summary is not prepared by the sponsors of the measure and is not a part of the body thereof subject to consideration by the Legislative Assembly. It is an editor's brief statement of the essential features of the measure **as introduced**. The statement includes a measure digest written in compliance with applicable readability standards.

Digest: The Act requires each member of the legislature to file a form with the OGEC. The Act requires that the form contain the name and salary of each of the member's relatives or members of the household who serve on the member's personal staff. (Flesch Readability Score: 65.2).

Requires a member of the Legislative Assembly who has a relative or a member of the household who receives a salary for serving on the member's personal legislative staff to file a statement with the Oregon Government Ethics Commission naming each relative or member of the household and stating the amount of the salary each relative or member of the household receives for serving on the member's personal legislative staff.

A BILL FOR AN ACT

1
2 Relating to nepotism laws for members of the Legislative Assembly; creating new provisions; and
3 amending ORS 244.177 and 244.179.

4 **Be It Enacted by the People of the State of Oregon:**

5 **SECTION 1. Section 2 of this 2025 Act is added to and made a part of ORS chapter 244.**

6 **SECTION 2. A member of the Legislative Assembly shall file annually with the Oregon
7 Government Ethics Commission a form listing:**

8 (1) **Each relative or member of the household of the member of the Legislative Assembly
9 who receives a salary for serving on the personal legislative staff of the member of the
10 Legislative Assembly.**

11 (2) **The amount of the salary each individual identified under subsection (1) of this section
12 receives for serving on the personal legislative staff of the member of the Legislative As-
13 sembly.**

14 (3) **For any relative who resides with the member of the Legislative Assembly, the per-
15 centage of any amount provided to the member as an allowance for the appointment of per-
16 sonal staff that is used for the relative's salary.**

17 **SECTION 3. ORS 244.177 is amended to read:**

18 244.177. (1) Except as provided in subsections (2) to (4) of this section:

19 (a) A public official may not appoint, employ or promote a relative or member of the household
20 to, or discharge, fire or demote a relative or member of the household from, a position with the
21 public body that the public official serves or over which the public official exercises jurisdiction or
22 control, unless the public official complies with the conflict of interest requirements of this chapter.

23 (b) A public official may not participate as a public official in any interview, discussion or de-
24 bate regarding the appointment, employment or promotion of a relative or member of the household
25 to, or the discharge, firing or demotion of a relative or member of the household from, a position
26 with the public body that the public official serves or over which the public official exercises juris-
27 diction or control. As used in this paragraph, "participate" does not include serving as a reference,

NOTE: Matter in **boldfaced** type in an amended section is new; matter *[italic and bracketed]* is existing law to be omitted. New sections are in **boldfaced** type.

1 providing a recommendation or performing other ministerial acts that are part of the normal job
 2 functions of the public official.

3 (2) **Subject to section 2 of this 2025 Act**, a member of the Legislative Assembly may appoint,
 4 employ, promote, discharge, fire or demote, or advocate for the appointment, employment, promotion,
 5 discharge, firing or demotion of, a relative or member of the household to or from a position on the
 6 personal legislative staff of the member of the Legislative Assembly.

7 (3)(a) A public official may appoint, employ, promote, discharge, fire or demote, or advocate for
 8 the appointment, employment, promotion, discharge, firing or demotion of, a relative or member of
 9 the household to or from a position as an unpaid volunteer with the public body that the public of-
 10 ficial serves or over which the public official exercises jurisdiction or control.

11 (b) Paragraph (a) of this subsection does not apply to the appointment, employment, promotion,
 12 discharge, firing or demotion of a relative or member of the household to a position as an unpaid
 13 member of a governing body of the public body that the public official serves or over which the
 14 public official exercises jurisdiction or control.

15 (c) A relative or member of the household described in paragraph (a) of this subsection may
 16 receive reimbursement of expenses provided in the ordinary course of business to similarly situated
 17 unpaid volunteers.

18 (4) This section does not prohibit a public body from appointing, employing, promoting, dis-
 19 charging, firing or demoting a person who is a relative or member of the household of a public of-
 20 ficial serving the public body.

21 **SECTION 4.** ORS 244.179 is amended to read:

22 244.179. (1) Notwithstanding ORS 659A.309 and except as provided in subsections (2) to (4) of
 23 this section, a public official acting in an official capacity may not directly supervise a person who
 24 is a relative or member of the household.

25 (2) **Subject to section 2 of this 2025 Act**, a member of the Legislative Assembly may directly
 26 supervise a person who:

27 (a) Is a relative or member of the household; and

28 (b) Serves as a public official in a position on the personal legislative staff of the member of the
 29 Legislative Assembly.

30 (3)(a) A public official acting in an official capacity may directly supervise a person who is a
 31 relative or member of the household if the person serves as an unpaid volunteer.

32 (b) Paragraph (a) of this subsection does not apply to service by a person in a position as an
 33 unpaid member of a governing body that a public official of whom the person is a relative or member
 34 of the household serves or over which the public official exercises jurisdiction or control.

35 (c) A relative or member of the household serving as an unpaid volunteer described in paragraph
 36 (a) of this subsection may receive reimbursement of expenses provided in the ordinary course of
 37 business to similarly situated unpaid volunteers.

38 (4) A public body may adopt policies specifying when a public official acting in an official ca-
 39 pacity may directly supervise a person who is a relative or member of the household.

40 **SECTION 5. Section 2 of this 2025 Act and the amendments to ORS 244.177 and 244.179**
 41 **by sections 3 and 4 of this 2025 Act apply to members of the Legislative Assembly who have**
 42 **relatives or members of the household receiving a salary for serving on the personal legis-**
 43 **lative staff of the member of the Legislative Assembly on or after the effective date of this**
 44 **2025 Act.**