



MEMORANDUM

DATE: January 7, 2025

TO: Representative Ben Bowman
Tony Lapiz, Chief of Staff

FROM: Susan Myers, Executive Director *SM*
Oregon Government Ethics Commission

SUBJECT: House Bill 3130

Per your request, the Oregon Government Ethics Commission (OGEC) is providing the following information regarding Statements of Economic Interest and the proposed implementation of House Bill 3130.

ORS 244.050 sets forth a list of positions, in both State and Local governments, where those holding the positions are required to file an annual Statement of Economic Interest (SEI). There are approximately 6,000 SEI filers. Included among these SEI filers, at all levels of government, are elected officials, employees, and volunteers.

In 2022, House Bill 4114 added members of school boards to the list of required SEI filers. Approximately 1446 school board members filed SEIs in 2023, and approximately 1508 filed in 2024.

The questions on the SEI form are designed to identify where the filers' financial interests lie. SEI filers are not required to reveal any financial records or income amounts; rather the SEI form asks filers to identify things such as the names of their businesses, their sources of household income, and the properties they own within their agency's jurisdiction (not including their personal residence).

House Bill 3130 would amend the provision requiring school board members to file SEIs, by providing that only those school board members who receive stipends from their districts would be required to file SEIs. The Bill would not change the filing requirements for any other SEI filers, which includes volunteers who may or may not receive stipends.

To clarify, the income an SEI filer receives from their own public body, whether a salary or a stipend, does not need to be reported on their SEI, and a filer would only need to list the source of such income if the total amount paid in the calendar year exceeded 10% of their annual household income.

Implementation of House Bill 3130 may pose certain difficulties:

- Will a school board's adoption of stipends be done on a calendar year or a fiscal year basis? The SEI form requires reporting a filer's financial interests from the preceding calendar year. Similarly, will a school board member be opting out of receiving stipends for an entire calendar year? Or can school board members opt-in or opt-out of receiving stipends at will?
- How will OGEC know whether a school board member received any stipends during the preceding calendar year? Will the jurisdictional contact have access to that information? OGEC has no way of tracking whether any particular school board member has or has not received any stipends, nor is there any requirement to report that information to OGEC. Requiring OGEC staff to verify whether any school board members received stipends and to determine which school board members are or are not required to file an SEI could require significant staff time and delay the timeline for seating SEI filers in the Electronic Filing System.