

HB 4017 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

House Committee On Rules

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Meeting Dates: 2/5

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

The measure allows contributions to a candidate, the principal campaign committee of a candidate, or the principal campaign committee of a public officeholder to be used for reasonable security-related expenses, including security and alarm systems and monitoring services for the candidate, officeholder, or their family when the expenses arise from the person being a candidate or officeholder. It defines family and allows the obtained security and alarm systems to be converted to personal use and excluded from being considered a gift when the candidate or officeholder is no longer a candidate or public officeholder. The measure declares an emergency and is effective upon passage.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

No amendment.

BACKGROUND:

Oregon's campaign finance regulation laws, found in ORS Chapter 260, govern the allowed uses of and prohibitions on the use of campaign contributions. Contributions may be used to defray expenses incurred in connection with the duties of a public officeholder, transferred to a national, state, or local political party-political committee, contributed to certain nonprofits, or used for other lawful purposes.

Under Oregon Ethics Law (ORS Chapter 244), a public official, candidate for office, or a relative or member of the household of a public official or candidate may not solicit or receive gifts of more than \$50 during a calendar year from single source with an economic interest in a matter subject to a decision or vote of the public official. ORS 244.020 (2025) defines "gift" as something of economic value that is given to a public official, a candidate, or a relative or member of the household that is not equally extended to nonpublic officials or candidates. The statute also lists things that are not considered gifts.