

HB 4017 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Senate Committee On Rules

Prepared By: Leslie Porter, LPRO Analyst

Meeting Dates: 2/25, 2/26

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.” It also allows the obtained security and alarm systems to be converted for personal use and excludes them from being considered a gift when the candidate or officeholder is no longer a candidate or public officeholder. The measure declares an emergency, effective upon its passage.

Fiscal Impact: Minimal impact

Revenue Impact: No impact

HOUSE VOTE: Ayes, 48; Nays, 3

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

No amendment.

BACKGROUND:

Oregon’s campaign finance regulation laws, found in Oregon Revised Statutes (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 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 a 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.