

LEGISLATIVE FISCAL OFFICE
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JOINT COMMITTEE ON
WAYS AND MEANS

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To: Capital Construction Subcommittee
From: Emily Coates, Legislative Fiscal Office
Date: February 27, 2026
Subject: HB 4177 – Relating to public meetings
Work Session Recommendations

The measure modifies provisions of Oregon’s public meetings law (PML) by revising the definition of “convening” and “deliberation,” specifies types of communications under a public meeting, and modifies provisions related to serial communication. Under current law, the Oregon Government Ethics Commission (OGEC) is allowed to proceed against a public body in lieu of a public official if the violation is related to an administrative error. However, the measure would allow OGEC to proceed against a public body or a public official for violations of PML.

The measure expands mandatory training requirements administered by OGEC to include members of a governing body that have decision-making authority over policy or administration for the public body. The measure modifies the grievance process by including a public body, increasing the time period to file a written grievance from 30 to 90 days, and requiring an initial written response within 21 days of receipt.

Finally, the measure authorizes OGEC to impose a civil penalty on a public body, rather than on public officials, for violations related to administrative errors under PML, such as meeting notice errors.

The -A3 amendment appropriates \$325,950 General Fund to OGEC to implement the measure.

Amendment

LFO recommends adoption of the –A3 amendment.

MOTION: I move adoption of the –A3 amendment to HB 4177. *(vote)*

Final Subcommittee Action

LFO recommends that HB 4177, as amended by the –A3 amendment, be moved to the Ways and Means Full Committee.

MOTION: I move HB 4177, as amended, to the Full Committee with a do pass recommendation. *(vote)*

Carriers

Full Committee: _____

House Floor: _____

Senate Floor: _____