

SB 1502 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Senate Committee On Rules

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Meeting Dates: 3/4

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

The measure requires the Secretary of State (SOS) to pre-session file a proposed legislative measure for the 2027 regular session that makes recommendations for how to change the campaign finance limitations system that is currently being implemented. It requires the SOS to report those requirements and limitations. It states that the measure shall reflect the progress and experience in implementing House Bill 4024 (2024), and House Bill 4018 (2026), should HB 4018 become law. It takes effect on the 91st day after adjournment sine die.

Fiscal impact: Minimal impact

Revenue impact: No impact

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

No amendment.

BACKGROUND:

There are three main methods employed by states for regulating campaign finance, which are commonly utilized in combination: 1) requiring the disclosure and reporting of campaign contributions and expenditures, 2) setting contribution limits to campaigns, and 3) providing a system for public financing of elections. According to the National Conference of State Legislatures, for the 2025–2026 election cycle, Oregon is 1 of 5 states (along with Alabama, Nebraska, Utah, and Virginia) with no limits on political campaign contributions and is 1 of the 11 states that impose no limits on individual candidate contributions.

House Bill 4024 (2024) set campaign contributions limits, defined and set requirements for specified political committees, set disclosure and reporting requirements for candidate campaign independent expenditures, established complaint investigation requirements and deadlines, and set civil penalties for violations of the contribution limits and disclosure requirements. The measure also called for the creation of a web-based campaign finance dashboard.

House Bill 4018 B (2026) makes changes to the campaign finance regulations adopted in House Bill 4024 (2024), including changing the operative dates for the disclosure reporting and campaign finance dashboard and revising the disclosure reporting requirements. It also restores previously repealed statutes until the effective date of new requirements and makes other form and style changes.