



Legislative Fiscal Office
 83rd Oregon Legislative Assembly
 2026 Regular Session

Prepared by: Twais Broadus
 Reviewed by: Amanda Beitel, John Borden, Paul Siebert, John Terpening, Emily Coates, Steve Robbins
 Date: February 26, 2026

Bill Title: Relating to public meetings; prescribing an effective date.

Government Unit(s) Affected: Special Districts, Statewide - Executive Branch, Statewide - Judicial Branch, Statewide - Legislative Branch, Cities, Government Ethics Commission, Counties, Department of Justice

Summary of Fiscal Impact:

2025-27 Biennium	General Fund	Lottery Funds	Other Funds	Federal Funds	Total Funds	Positions	FTE
Oregon Government Ethics Commission	\$ 325,950	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 325,950	-	-
Total Fiscal Impact	\$ 325,950	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 325,950	-	-

2027-29 Biennium	General Fund	Lottery Funds	Other Funds	Federal Funds	Total Funds	Positions	FTE
Oregon Government Ethics Commission	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 321,450	\$ -	\$ 321,450	-	-
Total Fiscal Impact	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 321,450	\$ -	\$ 321,450	-	-

Measure Description

The measure modifies provisions of Oregon’s public meetings law (PML). Specifically, the measure revises the definition of “convening” and “deliberation,” specifies types of communications under a public meeting, and modifies provisions related to serial communication. The measure also identifies categories of communications that are not considered meetings when no deliberation occurs, including certain procedural, factual, informational, and public-facing communications.

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. Additionally, the measure prohibits OGEC from opening or considering a complaint unless the complainant has completed the grievance process and provided required documentation, except when OGEC acts on its own motion. The measure provides alleged violations by members of OGEC are excluded from OGEC’s jurisdiction and must be pursued in circuit court.

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.

Fiscal Analysis

The fiscal impact is estimated to be \$325,950 General Fund in the 2025-27 biennium and \$321,450 Other Funds in the 2027-29 biennium.

Oregon Government Ethics Commission

The fiscal impact for OGEC is \$325,950 General Fund in the 2025-27 biennium and \$321,450 Other Funds in the 2027-29 biennium. OGEC is funded by an assessment that is equally shared between state agencies and local governments. The assessment rate is calculated each biennium and is intended to cover anticipated expenditures of the agency. However, the agency's ending fund balance is not sufficient to cover the additional costs of the measure while maintaining required operating reserves. Therefore, the agency would need General Fund resources, one-time, in the 2025-27 biennium. Future biennia costs will be built into the assessment.

The Commission anticipates an increase in the number of complaints received related to PML, which will result in an increase in Department of Justice (DOJ) legal fees for review of advice and opinions issued by the Commission. OGEC anticipates approximately 120 additional hours in DOJ legal fees for updates to PML rulemaking. Additionally, since the measure allows OGEC to proceed against a public body for violations of PML the agency would need to seek outside counsel for these cases. DOJ provides legal advice to state agencies and the Commission, which would create a conflict if the agency proceeds against another public body that is represented by DOJ.

OGEC anticipates an increase in the number of annual trainings; however, the Commission does not have access to data regarding how many members of governing bodies have decision-making authority over policy or administration for the public body that would be required to participate in trainings. Once the actual increase is identified, OGEC may need to request additional resources to address the increase in trainings.

OGEC does not anticipate a significant increase in civil penalties related to administrative errors under PML. Generally, the Commission issues Letters of Education rather than imposing civil penalties for these types of violations.

Department of Justice

Implementation of the measure will require General Counsel attorneys to assist OGEC with statutory interpretation, rule revisions, training updates and related guidance, and to advise client agencies on updated PML requirements. DOJ estimates approximately 600 additional hours of workload per biennium, which can be absorbed within existing resources and assumes no update to the Attorney General's Public Records and Meetings Manual.

Other entities

There is a minimal fiscal impact for all remaining state, legislative, and judicial agencies.

There is no fiscal impact for cities, counties, or special districts.

Relevant Dates

The measure takes effect on the 91st day after sine die.