

SB 44 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Carrier: Sen. Beyer

Senate Committee On Rules

Action Date: 03/13/17
Action: Do pass.
Vote: 5-0-0-0
Yeas: 5 - Beyer, Boquist, Burdick, Ferrioli, Roblan
Fiscal: Has minimal fiscal impact
Revenue: No revenue impact
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WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Permits executive director of Oregon Government Ethics Commission (OGEC) to designate employee of commission to fulfill any duty or responsibility assigned to executive director.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- OGEC statutory timelines and workflow
- Duties and responsibilities of OGEC executive director

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

No amendment.

BACKGROUND:

The Oregon Government Ethics Commission (OGEC), established by vote of the people in 1974, is a citizen commission charged with enforcing government ethics laws. Oregon government ethics laws prohibit public officials from using office for financial gain and require public disclosure of economic conflict of interest. The OGEC also enforces state laws that require lobbyists and the entities they represent to register and periodically report their expenditures. The third area of OGEC jurisdiction is the executive session provisions of public meetings law.

The OGEC is comprised of seven volunteer members. Four members are appointed by the Governor, upon recommendation by the Democratic and Republican leaders of the Oregon House and Senate. Three members are selected directly by the Governor; however, all members must be confirmed by the Senate. Statute stipulates that no more than four members may be from the same political party and provides that a member may not serve more than one four-year term.

The OGEC is administered by an executive director selected by the commissioners. Additionally, the OGEC employs two investigators, two trainers, a program analyst and two office support staff who are appointed by the executive director. The executive director is responsible for the administrative operations of the OGEC as well as any other duties that are assigned to the executive director by the OGEC. Statute prohibits the OGEC from delegating the power to adopt rules or issue commission advisory opinions to the executive director. OGEC staff answer informal questions and provide information about statutes, administrative rules and the commission's process.

Senate Bill 44 would permit the OGEC executive director to designate an OGEC employee to fulfill any duty or responsibility assigned to the executive director by statute or the commission.