

SB 744 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Joint Committee On Capitol Culture

Prepared By: Josh Nasbe, Counsel

Meeting Dates: 2/6

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Creates Joint Committee on Conduct. Directs each of four caucus leaders to appoint two members to Joint Committee. Directs President of Senate and Speaker of House to appoint alternate members. Permits Joint Committee members to serve on chamber-specific Conduct Committees, while reserving ability to vote on disciplinary matters for members who serve in relevant chamber.

Creates Legislative Equity Office. Directs Joint Committee to select principal investigator and principal outreach officer and otherwise provide oversight of Office. Requires principal investigator to receive harassment-related complaints, conduct or outsource investigations and recommend interim safety measures, in accordance with legislative rules.

Requires principal outreach officer to conduct harassment-related training and regular climate and culture surveys. Mandates attendance at training for legislators, legislative staff, interns and volunteers, as well as certain contractors. Mandates attendance at training for lobbyists registered with the Oregon Governmental Ethics Commission, beginning on January 1, 2023. Requires principal outreach officer to receive harassment-related information and provide confidential process counseling. Prohibits principal outreach officer from investigating, or providing to investigator, confidential harassment-related information. Expressly authorizes principal outreach officer to conduct training in response to receipt of confidential information, while preserving anonymity of individuals providing information.

Requires Equity Office to establish Capitol Leadership Team and to submit annual report to Joint Committee. Declares emergency, effective on passage.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

No amendment.

BACKGROUND:

Senate Bill 744 contains recommendations of the Oregon Law Commission's Oregon State Capitol Workplace Harassment Work Group.