

HB 2277 -1 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

House Committee On Rules

Prepared By: Josh Nasbe, Counsel

Meeting Dates: 2/11

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Modifies class of persons required to register as lobbyist and file quarterly financial reports with Oregon Government Ethics Commission.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

-1 Exempts State Court Administrator and deputy State Court Administrator from obligation to register as lobbyist and file quarterly expenditure reports with Oregon Government Ethics Commission.

BACKGROUND:

ORS 171.725 to 171.785 describe the circumstances under which a person must register as a lobbyist and file quarterly expenditure reports with the Oregon Government Ethics Commission (OGEC). Currently, both "lobbying" and "lobbyist" are defined by ORS 171.725, with the latter meaning: 1) A person who agrees to lobby for compensation; 2) A person who lobbies as a representative of a corporation, association, organization or other group; or 3) A public official who lobbies. A second statute, ORS 171.735, operates to further limit the scope of "lobbyists" who are required to register with and report to OGEC. This statute includes exceptions for certain individuals who might otherwise meet the definition of "lobbyist," including members of the news media and certain governmental officials, as well as persons who do meet the definition, but who do not spend more than 24 hours or \$100 on lobbying during a calendar quarter.

House Bill 2277 modifies these provisions in several respects. The bill exempts several persons from the obligation to register with OGEC, including: 1) Persons who meet with a member of the Legislative Assembly in a personal capacity; 2) Locally elected public officials whose lobbying activities are limited to lobbying in an official capacity; and 3) Representatives of a corporation, association, organization or other group who are compensated for lobbying or who spend more than \$100 per calendar quarter on lobbying, provided that the person's responsibilities are limited to supervising lobbying activities and the person does not lobby more than 24 hours per calendar quarter. Subject to this latter exception, House Bill 2277 requires all compensated lobbyists, including public officials with a written job description that includes lobbying, to register and report, regardless of the amount of time or monies spent lobbying in the calendar quarter. Finally, House Bill 2277 expressly excludes personal living expenses, travel expenses and office overhead, including salaries and wages, from the \$100 per-quarter calculation. House Bill 2277 takes effect January 1, 2020.