

SJR 3 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Senate Committee On Rules

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Meeting Dates: 3/18

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Proposes amendment to Oregon Constitution to provide that member of Legislative Assembly who, without permission or excuse, does not attend 10 or more scheduled legislative floor sessions is deemed to be engaging in disorderly behavior and is disqualified from holding office as Senator or Representative for term following member's current term of office. Refers amendment to the people at the next regular statewide general election.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

No amendment.

BACKGROUND:

House Rule 3.03 states that a member shall attend all sessions of the House, unless an Excused Absence Request is filed with the Chief Clerk 48 hours in advance. The rule also states that if an unexcused absence prevents a quorum from being met, the House may impose a Call of the House, per Article IV Section 12 of the Oregon Constitution, and, if a quorum is still not met, then the House may impose a \$500 fine on the member per session day of unexcused absence.

Senate Rule 3.10 states that a member shall attend all sessions of the Senate unless excused by the President. Senate Rule 3.01 states that if a quorum is not met, the Senate may adjourn day to day and compel the attendance of absent members. Senate Rule 3.55 allows three members to demand a Call of the Senate, upon which the Sergeant at Arms shall cause all unexcused members to come to the floor. If the Sergeant at Arms cannot find any unexcused member, that shall be reported to the President.

Senate Joint Resolution 3 proposes an amendment to the Oregon Constitution classifying 10 or more unexcused absences as disorderly behavior which would disqualify a member from holding office another term.