

HB 3343 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

House Committee On Rules

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Meeting Dates: 3/30

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Establishes limits on campaign contributions that may be accepted by candidates and political committees. Establishes limits on candidate's personal contributions and expenditures and requires every communication relating to candidate's election contest to prominently disclose the amount the candidate has contributed to the candidate's political campaign committee. Provides that any unexpended moneys remaining in the candidate's principal campaign committee at the end of the election cycle and after making certain payments must be provided to the Secretary of State (SOS) for the purpose of producing the voters' pamphlet. Requires SOS and Attorney General to impose civil fine of not less than five times, nor more than 20 times, the amount of the unlawful contribution or expenditure. Grants Oregon electors standing to sue to enforce penalty provisions. Authorizes employee or contractor to bring civil suit if entity either requires employee or contractor to make contribution or promises or threatens any benefit or detriment if employee or contractor makes or refuses to make contribution. Imposes minimum civil award of \$20,000 for violation. Becomes operative on first day of new election cycle for each public office. Declares emergency, effective on passage.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

No amendment.

BACKGROUND:

According to the National Conference of State Legislatures, Oregon is one of five states with no limits on political campaign contributions, along with Alabama, Nebraska, Utah, and Virginia, and is one of 11 states that impose no limits on individual donors.

The passage of Ballot Measure 47 in 2006 technically put contribution limits in Oregon statute, but those limits were deemed not enforceable unless or until the Oregon Constitution was amended or interpreted to allow such limits. Ballot Measure 107, which was referred by Senate Joint Resolution 18 (2019) and approved to voters on November 3, 2020, amended section 8, Article II of the Oregon Constitution to permit the enactment of laws to regulate the use of money in political campaigns. The measure specifically authorizes laws or ordinances, enacted on or after January 1, 2016, that require: (1) limits on contributions as long as resources that are necessary for effective advocacy may be gathered; (2) the disclosure of contributions or expenditures made in connection with political campaigns or to influence the outcome of any election; and, (3) the identification of the persons or entities responsible for political advertisements.

House Bill 3343 establishes limits on the campaign contributions that may be accepted by candidates and political committees and on a candidate's personal contributions and expenditures.