

SB 61 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Carrier: Sen. Burdick

Senate Committee On Rules

Action Date: 03/30/21

Action: Do pass.

Vote: 3-1-1-0

Yeas: 3 - Burdick, Manning Jr, Wagner

Nays: 1 - Thatcher

Exc: 1 - Girod

Fiscal: No fiscal impact

Revenue: No revenue impact

Prepared By: Leslie Porter, LPRO Analyst

Meeting Dates: 2/25, 3/30

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Authorizes the Oregon Government Ethics Commission to provide written commission advisory opinions, written staff advisory opinions, and oral and written staff advice on the application of executive session provisions of Oregon public meetings law. Grants specific safe harbor provisions to persons who act in good faith on commission opinions or advice.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Formal complaint caseload and number of repeat requesters
- The need for safe harbor provisions

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

No amendment.

BACKGROUND:

Upon written request, or upon its own motion, the Oregon Government Ethics Commission (OGEC) provides written commission advisory opinions, written staff opinions, and oral and written staff advice on issues, whether actual or hypothetical, related to government ethics laws. Additionally, the OGEC is prevented from issuing penalties against a person for any good faith action taken on reliance of any such opinions or advice (safe harbor provisions). Senate Bill 61 expands the topics under this authority to include the executive session provisions of Oregon's public meetings laws.