

HB 4114 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

House Committee On Rules

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Meeting Dates: 2/10, 2/18

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Requires every member of district school board of a common school district or union high school district to file a verified statement of economic interest.

FISCAL: May have fiscal impact, but no statement yet issued.

REVENUE: May have revenue impact, but no statement yet issued.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Proposed amendment to protect school board member addresses from disclosure
- School board member oversight of public funding and employees
- Filing of statements of economic interest
- Role of school board members in their communities

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

No amendment.

BACKGROUND:

In general, ORS Chapter 244, and related statutes, prohibit the use of public office for financial gain, require disclosure of economic interests and conflicts of interest, and provide sanctions and procedures for enforcement of violations, which are overseen by the Oregon Government Ethics Commission (OGEC). ORS 244.050 specifically requires certain public officials and candidates for office to file an Annual Verified Statement of Economic Interest (SEI) with the OGEC by April 15 of each calendar year. Officials required to file SEIs include statewide elected officials, legislators, judicial officers, state agency directors, every elected city or county official, members of many state boards and commissions, and the chief administrative officer and financial officer of each common and union high school district, education service district, and community college district.

A [May 2021 audit](#) of the OGEC by the Secretary of State Audits Division recommended adding school board members to the list of public officials required to submit a SEI. The audit noted that since school board members manage a critical public function and allocate billions of dollars in revenue as part-time public officials with other employment and community connections, “it is important to provide the public with adequate information about these potential conflicts to maintain accountability and fairness.”

House Bill 4114 adds school board members to the list of public officials who must file an annual SEI with the OGEC.