

HB 2932 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

House Committee On Rules

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Meeting Dates: 1/27, 4/2

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

The measure adds an exemption to the statute prohibiting a public official from using the official's position or office to obtain a financial benefit or avoid financial harm that allows a public official to accept compensation from any post-secondary institution for teaching one or more courses at the institution.

FISCAL: No fiscal impact

REVENUE: No revenue impact

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Clarifies situation where public official gets a teaching position because of their public official position
- Existence of credentials for judges and nurses
- Two-part test for Oregon Government Ethics Commission advice

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

No amendment.

BACKGROUND:

Oregon's government ethics laws dictate how public officials and lobbyists are expected to behave and act as a guide for public officials when taking certain actions and making certain decisions. Oregon's government ethics laws were established in 1974, as approved by the voters with Ballot Measure 14, and codified in Oregon Revised Statutes (ORS) Chapter 244. In general, ORS Chapter 244 and related statutes prohibit the use of public office for financial gain or to avoid financial harm, 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).

The term "eligible post-secondary institution" in ORS 348.180 means:

- Oregon's seven public universities;
- A community college operated under ORS chapter 341;
- Oregon Health and Science University; and
- An Oregon-based, generally accredited, not-for-profit institution of higher education.