

Submitter: Richard Burke  
On Behalf Of: Libertarian Leadership Caucus  
Committee: Senate Committee On Rules  
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB3390

Dear Chair Jama and Members of the Committee,

I urge a NO vote on 3390 as it would create a clear conflict of interest for the legislature and undermine the concept of citizen legislators.

People who write initiatives and gather petition signatures to place initiatives on election ballots typically do so because they are attempting to pass something the legislature doesn't want to deal with, something opposed by a substantial number of legislators, or simply exercise their right to act as citizen legislators. The initiative process was intended to offer the people a way to circumvent the legislature.

HB3390 would allow legislators, who may oppose any given initiative, to prejudicially write partisan ballot titles and explanatory statements for those initiatives, designed to thwart initiatives they don't like. Inherently, HB3390 undermines the idea that the people can circumvent the legislature, as was intended by those who established Oregon's initiative petition system, since all initiatives would have to go through the legislature to receive official ballot titles and explanatory statements which would be used by voters to make their decisions.

For these reasons, I urge a NO vote on HB3390. Thank you.

Respectfully,

Richard P. Burke, Director  
Libertarian Leadership Caucus