

HB 4018 -6 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

House Committee On Rules

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Meeting Dates: 2/10, 2/12

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

The measure requires the Secretary of State to study elections and report to the Legislative Assembly by September 15, 2027.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

-6 Replaces the measure. The amendment makes changes to campaign finance statutes to change certain operative dates to January 1, 2031; uses contribution or contributor instead of donation or donor and when appropriate; sets contribution limits to calendar year instead of year or election; adjusts names of committees allowed to contribute to or accept contributions under the limits; changes in-kind contribution limits to certain number of hours per calendar year; adjusts thresholds for who may carry forward certain amounts of unexpended funds; consolidates definitions; restores previously repealed statutes until effective date of new requirements; postpones the dashboard requirement until January 1, 2032; allows corporations or labor organizations to establish and administer separate, segregated funds that operate as a political committee under specified conditions; changes deadlines for inspection by filing officer from 90 to 30 days; allows a person to cure a violation; and makes other drafting, style, and form corrections.

BACKGROUND:

There are three main methods employed by states for regulating campaign finance, which are commonly utilized in combination:

- requiring the disclosure and reporting of campaign contributions and expenditures;
- setting contribution limits to campaigns; and
- providing a system for public financing of elections.

According to the National Conference of State Legislatures, for the 2025-2026 election cycle, Oregon is one of five states (along with Alabama, Nebraska, Utah, and Virginia) with no limits on political campaign contributions and is one of 11 states that impose no limits on individual candidate contributions.

House Bill 4024 (2024) set campaign contributions limits, defined and set requirements for specified political committees, set disclosure and reporting requirements for candidate campaign independent expenditures, established complaint investigation requirements and deadlines, and set civil penalties for violations of the contribution limits and disclosure requirements. The measure also called for the creation of a web-based campaign finance dashboard.