

Senate Bill 1084

Sponsored by COMMITTEE ON RULES (at the request of Senate President Peter Courtney and Speaker of the House of Representatives Karen Minnis)

SUMMARY

The following summary is not prepared by the sponsors of the measure and is not a part of the body thereof subject to consideration by the Legislative Assembly. It is an editor's brief statement of the essential features of the measure **as introduced**.

Creates Public Commission on Oregon Legislature.
Declares emergency, effective on passage.

A BILL FOR AN ACT

1
2 Relating to Public Commission on the Oregon Legislature; and declaring an emergency.

3 Whereas more than 30 years have passed since the last comprehensive review of the legislative
4 branch; and

5 Whereas the legislative branch is the basic policy-making branch for state government and the
6 most responsive of the three branches to issues of importance to the citizens of the state; and

7 Whereas the Legislative Assembly of the State of Oregon is responsible for enacting sufficient
8 and proper laws of the state for governing the conduct and activities of the citizens of Oregon; and

9 Whereas the Legislative Assembly is responsible for enacting laws for the management of the
10 governmental affairs of the state; and

11 Whereas the increasing complexity of our society has meant that a multitude of issues come
12 before the Legislative Assembly for consideration and determination, with an increasingly heavy
13 workload for the Legislative Assembly, legislative committees and legislators; and

14 Whereas the Legislative Assembly recognizes the need for study and evaluation of the body's
15 administration, procedures, facilities, staffing and overall capacity, and the need for study and
16 evaluation of ways of improving the body's administration, procedures, facilities, staffing and overall
17 capacity; and

18 Whereas the Legislative Assembly finds that a major review and study of the legislative branch
19 of government of this state, and of all of the Legislative Assembly's functions and activities, should
20 be undertaken for the purpose of ensuring that the Legislative Assembly can meet the increasing
21 demands of legislative work and perform its functions as an equal and coordinate branch of state
22 government; now, therefore,

23 **Be It Enacted by the People of the State of Oregon:**

24 **SECTION 1. (1) There is created the Public Commission on the Oregon Legislature con-**
25 **sisting of 30 members appointed as follows:**

26 **(a) The President of the Senate shall appoint two members from among members of the**
27 **Senate;**

28 **(b) The Speaker of the House of Representatives shall appoint two members from among**
29 **members of the House of Representatives; and**

30 **(c) The President and Speaker shall jointly appoint 26 public members who have broad**
31 **experience with, interest in and perspective on the legislative branch.**

NOTE: Matter in **boldfaced** type in an amended section is new; matter *[italic and bracketed]* is existing law to be omitted.
New sections are in **boldfaced** type.

1 (2) The commission shall conduct a review of and make recommendations on all aspects
2 of the legislative branch, including the timing, frequency and length of legislative sessions,
3 legislative procedures and the adequacy of legislative facilities and staffing.

4 (3) The commission may send members to study facilities and services provided in other
5 state capitols.

6 (4) A majority of the members of the commission constitutes a quorum for the trans-
7 action of business. A majority of the members of a subcommittee of the commission consti-
8 tutes a quorum for the transaction of business of the subcommittee.

9 (5) Official action by the commission requires the approval of a majority of the members
10 of the commission. Official action by a subcommittee requires the approval of a majority of
11 the members appointed to the subcommittee.

12 (6) The President and Speaker shall designate two members of the commission to serve
13 as cochairpersons of the commission.

14 (7) The cochairpersons of the commission shall determine the number and nature of
15 subcommittees and appoint commission members to subcommittees to carry out the work
16 of the commission.

17 (8) If there is a vacancy on the commission for any cause, the appointing authority shall
18 make an appointment to become immediately effective. The cochairpersons of the commis-
19 sion will fill vacancies on subcommittees.

20 (9) The commission shall meet at times and places specified by the call of the
21 cochairpersons. Subcommittees of the commission shall meet at times and places specified
22 by the chairpersons of the subcommittees.

23 (10) The commission may adopt rules necessary for the operation of the commission.

24 (11) No later than January 5, 2007, the commission shall prepare a report of its study for
25 submission to the Emergency Board and to members of the Seventy-fourth Legislative As-
26 sembly.

27 (12) The commission may draft and pre-session file legislation to be considered by the
28 Seventy-fourth Legislative Assembly.

29 (13) The Legislative Administration Committee and the Legislative Assembly shall pro-
30 vide staff to support the commission and subcommittees of the commission.

31 (14) Members of the commission who are not members of the Legislative Assembly are
32 entitled to compensation and may be reimbursed for actual and necessary travel and other
33 expenses incurred by them in the performance of their official duties in the manner and
34 amounts provided for in ORS 292.495. Claims for expenses incurred in performing functions
35 of the commission shall be paid out of funds appropriated to the Legislative Assembly for
36 that purpose.

37 (15) All agencies of state government, as defined in ORS 174.111, are directed to assist
38 the commission in the performance of its duties and, to the extent permitted by laws relating
39 to confidentiality, to furnish such information and advice as the members of the commission
40 consider necessary to perform their duties.

41 SECTION 2. Section 1 of this 2005 Act is repealed January 8, 2007.

42 SECTION 3. This 2005 Act being necessary for the immediate preservation of the public
43 peace, health and safety, an emergency is declared to exist, and this 2005 Act takes effect
44 on its passage.