

DRAFT

SUMMARY

Creates Commission on Legislative Campaign Finance Reform.
Declares emergency, effective on passage.

A BILL FOR AN ACT

1 Relating to Commission on Legislative Campaign Finance Reform; and de-
2 claring an emergency.
3

4 Whereas public confidence in the processes of the Oregon Legislative
5 Assembly is low; and

6 Whereas the rising cost of legislative campaigns increases the reliance
7 of legislative candidates and legislative caucuses on special interest funding;
8 and

9 Whereas reliance on special interest funding inhibits independent legis-
10 lative decision-making, intensifies partisanship and discourages problem
11 solving; and

12 Whereas when partisanship dominates legislative decision-making, coop-
13 eration, creativity and compromise are neglected; and

14 Whereas a Legislative Assembly perceived to be dominated by
15 partisanship further erodes public confidence in the decisions and effective-
16 ness of the assembly; and

17 Whereas legislative effectiveness builds public confidence in legislative
18 processes and outcomes; now, therefore,

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

20 **SECTION 1. (1) There is created the Commission on Legislative**
21 **Campaign Finance Reform consisting of 11 members appointed as fol-**

22 **lows:**

1 (a) The President of the Senate shall appoint two members from
2 among members of the Senate;

3 (b) The Speaker of the House of Representatives shall appoint two
4 members from among members of the House of Representatives; and

5 (c) The President and Speaker shall jointly appoint seven public
6 members who have broad experience with, interest in and perspective
7 on campaign finance issues related to members of the Legislative As-
8 sembly and candidates for legislative office.

9 (2) The commission shall conduct a review of and make recom-
10 mendations on all aspects of the role of campaign finance issues in
11 legislative decision-making. The goals of the commission's recom-
12 mendations shall include:

13 (a) Separating legislative policy and budget decisions from the in-
14 fluence of campaign contributions and expenditures;

15 (b) Restraining the escalation of legislative campaign costs and
16 spending;

17 (c) Shifting the balance of legislative campaign activity away from
18 fund-raising and toward discussion of policy issues and activities de-
19 signed to engage voters in the legislative process;

20 (d) Decreasing the dependence of legislative candidates and legisla-
21 tive caucuses on contributions from and expenditures by special in-
22 terest groups; and

23 (e) Preserving the Oregon legislative tradition of resolving issues
24 in a bipartisan manner.

25 (3) A majority of the members of the commission constitutes a
26 quorum for the transaction of business. A majority of the members
27 of a subcommittee of the commission constitutes a quorum for the
28 transaction of business of the subcommittee.

29 (4) Official action by the commission requires the approval of a
30 majority of the members of the commission. Official action by a sub-
31 committee requires the approval of a majority of the members of the

1 subcommittee.

2 (5) The President and Speaker shall jointly designate one member
3 of the commission to serve as chairperson of the commission.

4 (6) The chairperson of the commission may determine the number
5 and nature of subcommittees and appoint commission members to
6 subcommittees to carry out the work of the commission. The chair-
7 person of the commission shall select one member of each subcom-
8 mittee to serve as chairperson of the subcommittee.

9 (7) If there is a vacancy on the commission for any cause, the ap-
10 pointing authority shall make an appointment to become immediately
11 effective. The chairperson of the commission shall make appointments
12 to fill vacancies on subcommittees.

13 (8) The commission shall meet at times and places specified by the
14 call of the chairperson. Subcommittees of the commission shall meet
15 at times and places specified by the chairpersons of the subcommit-
16 tees.

17 (9) The commission may adopt rules necessary for the operation of
18 the commission.

19 (10) No later than January 9, 2009, the commission shall prepare a
20 report of its review for submission to the members of the Seventy-fifth
21 Legislative Assembly.

22 (11) The commission may draft and pre-session file legislation to be
23 considered by the Seventy-fifth Legislative Assembly.

24 (12) The Legislative Administration Committee and the Legislative
25 Assembly shall provide staff to support the commission and subcom-
26 mittees of the commission.

27 (13) Members of the commission who are not members of the Leg-
28 islative Assembly are entitled to compensation and may be reimbursed
29 for actual and necessary travel and other expenses incurred by them
30 in the performance of their official duties in the manner and amounts
31 provided for in ORS 292.495. Claims for expenses incurred in perform-

1 ing functions of the commission shall be paid out of funds appropri-
2 ated to the Legislative Assembly for that purpose.

3 (14) All agencies of state government, as defined in ORS 174.111, are
4 directed to assist the commission in the performance of its duties and,
5 to the extent permitted by laws relating to confidentiality, to furnish
6 such information and advice as the members of the commission con-
7 sider necessary to perform their duties.

8 SECTION 2. Section 1 of this 2007 Act is repealed January 12, 2009.

9 SECTION 3. This 2007 Act being necessary for the immediate pres-
10 ervation of the public peace, health and safety, an emergency is de-
11 clared to exist, and this 2007 Act takes effect on its passage.

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