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OREGON HOUSE DEMOCRATS

For Immediate Release
Feb 24, 2020

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Conflict of Interest Transparency for Legislators Increases Under Bill Passed by Oregon House *Increases what must be reported on Statement of Economic Interest*

SALEM, Ore. – The Oregon House of Representatives passed legislation today to increase reporting requirements for legislators and ensure that there is additional transparency around potential conflicts of interest.

House Bill 4123 requires statements of economic interest (SEI) to include certain information about sources of income, above 10 percent, for businesses that an individual is a director or officer for if the source of income has legislative or administrative interest.

“Oregonians deserve to know if their legislators have conflicts of interest,” said Rep. Dan Rayfield (D-Corvallis), the chief sponsor of the legislation. “This loophole in our current law could allow a legislator to receive significant sums of money from sources that have a legislative interest and no one would ever know about it. As we work to reform our system and ensure there is sunlight on the actions we take, this is an important step forward.”

Elected officials, certain public officials and lobbyists, among others, are required to file a SEI yearly with the Oregon Government Ethics Commission (OGEC). This publicly available filing discloses certain income, assets and expenses exceeding \$50 while participating in certain activities related to the official’s job.

Rep. Karin Power (D-Milwaukie), a sponsor of the legislation, said that this provided important transparency at a time when confidence in government was waning.

“We owe it to Oregonians to ensure that there is as much transparency as possible within our government,” Rep. Power said. “Closing this loophole is a much-needed update to state law and an important step forward.”

Other sponsors of the legislation include Rep. Paul Holvey (D-Eugene), Rep. Alissa Keny-Guyer (D-Portland) and Rep. Marty Wilde (D-Eugene).

House Bill 4123 passed the Oregon House 40 to 18 and now goes to the Oregon Senate for consideration.

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