

**REVENUE: No revenue impact**

**FISCAL: Minimal fiscal impact, no statement issued**

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**Action:** Do Pass

**Vote:** 9 - 0 - 0

**Yeas:** Barker, Bonamici, Cameron, Flores, Komp, Krieger, Read, Whisnant, Macpherson

**Nays:** 0

**Exc.:** 0

**Prepared By:** Bill Taylor, Counsel

**Meeting Dates:** 1/29

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**WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:** Clarifies that a municipal or justice court may assign a criminal judgment to a private collection agency and may add a reasonable collection fee to the judgment.

**ISSUES DISCUSSED:**

- Reasonableness of collection fee
- Collection agencies and the municipal or justice courts that enter into contracts for the collection of past due fines, fees, and assessments
- Contracts that set the fee the collection agency may retain

**EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT:** No amendment.

**BACKGROUND:** ORS 137.118 allows a municipal or justice court to add to any judgment in a criminal action that includes a monetary obligation a fee for the cost of collection if the court gives the defendant a period of time to pay the obligation. The collection fee cannot exceed 25 percent of the obligation owed and may not be more than \$250.