



February 24, 2015

Clackamas County Board of Commissioners
Policy Position
SB 385: Relating to the possession of weapons in courts

Clackamas County supports SB 385: The Board of County Commissioners supports SB 385, relating to the possession of weapons in courts. Under current law, Justice and Municipal Courts operate in a “public building,” not a court facility, and therefore Justice and Municipal Judges are unable to issue court orders permitting or prohibiting possession of firearms and other weapons in these facilities.

This bill would expand the definition of a “court facility” to include Justice and Municipal Courts, and would expand the definition of “Judge” to include Justice and Municipal Court Judges. Judges would then be able to enter an Order restricting firearms and other weapons in a court facility, thus allowing local judges to have the same authority already existing for presiding Circuit Court Judges to permit or prohibit firearms in a court.

SB 385 is a direct response to a situation that occurred in the Clackamas County Justice Court in which a citizen, permitted to carry a concealed handgun, willfully brought a firearm into the court building after researching that current law allowed them access and because they were unhappy about receiving a traffic violation citation. We urge a “yes” vote on SB 385.

Please contact Chris Lyons at clyons@clackamas.us for more information.