



Apr. 6, 2015

Honorable Floyd Prozanski, Chair
Senate Committee on Judiciary
900 Court St. NE
Salem, Or 97301

RE: Senate Bill 363 Prohibits court and parties to criminal case from charging fees unless expressly authorized by law

Dear Chair Prozanski and Members of the Judiciary Committee:

I am writing today to express the City of Beaverton's support for the dash-1 amendment to Senate Bill 363 which prohibits an additional fee for a defendant beyond the statutory court filing and the OSP print and records check fee. As introduced, however, the bill is too broad.

The dash-1 amendment makes it clear the fees that are allowed to be charged for court filings and records checks for crimes. Without this amendment, SB 363 is unclear as to whether it applies to crimes *and* violations, which would have a significant impact on local governments. In addition, the term "unless authorized by law" can be interpreted in different ways. If it means only as authorized by state statute then it is telling every city that they cannot solve problems locally on violations and cannot cover even the minimal costs for any program. Although I do not believe that is the intent, it could have that impact. The City of Beaverton does not charge additional fees for crimes, nor has it ever done so. We do charge reasonable fees related to violations that come before our municipal court.

The dash-1 amendment clarifies what fees relating to crimes are to be prohibited. I urge you to support the dash-1 amendment to help make SB 363 clearly focused on what the bill is trying to accomplish.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Bill Kirby". The signature is fluid and cursive, written over the word "Sincerely,".

Bill Kirby
City Attorney