

---

# MEMORANDUM

Legislative Fiscal Office  
900 Court St. NE, Room H-178  
Salem, Oregon 97301  
Phone 503-986-1828  
FAX 503-373-7807

---

**To:** Capital Construction Subcommittee

**From:** John Terpening, Legislative Fiscal Office

**Date:** June 25, 2015

**Subject:** HB 2621 – Work Session Recommendations

---

HB 2621 allows the City of Portland to operate fixed photo radar systems in “urban high crash corridors” as defined in the measure. The fixed photo radar systems must be in the same location for a minimum of 180 days; however there is no limit on the hours of use. Currently, photo radar systems are allowed by law in other municipalities, however they are limited to four hours and/or specific areas like residential or school zones. The number of units operated by the City is not specified in the measure and it is assumed that any fixed photo units would be in use for 24 hours per day.

The fiscal and revenue impacts of the measure are indeterminate, and will depend on the rollout scheduled determined by the City of Portland and the volume of violations produced via the fixed photo radar systems in operation. The City of Portland currently operates one manned mobile photo radar unit which produces approximately 30,000 citations per year operating in limited hours. Currently, the Oregon Judicial Departments’ (OJD) Multnomah County Circuit Court, which processes the City of Portland’s traffic violations, has 26 FTE within its Violations Bureau that processes 120,000 total citations per year, 90,000 of which are traffic violations, and 30,000 of those come from the mobile photo radar unit.

The Legislative Fiscal Office (LFO) recommends providing OJD with \$1.25 Million GF for 12 positions (9.00 FTE) to begin January 1, 2016 when the measure becomes operative. This level of staffing is assumed to be sufficient to handle 50,000 additional citations per year, or 75,000 additional citations in the 15-17 biennium.

Furthermore, LFO recommends setting aside \$1 Million in a special purpose appropriation to the Emergency Board, dedicated to OJD for this purpose, in the event that citations reach levels beyond the estimated 50,000 per year. OJD estimates three additional processing staff would be required for every 10,000 additional citations, with additional Hearings Referees and support staff added for every 35,000 increase in citations.

The Judicial Department reports that the average collection rate for violation fines is 67%. Of that amount, 71% goes to the Criminal Fines Account and 29% goes to the City of Portland. The CFA monies do not cover court operations, and therefore would not fund the processing of additional citations received as a result of fixed photo radar. It is assumed, however, that the collection of fines would generate sufficient revenues to offset General Fund used for OJD’s costs of processing the violations.

**Recommended Changes to HB 2621:**

The Legislative Fiscal Office recommends adoption of the –A12 amendment.

**Motion #1: Move adoption of the –A12 amendment to HB 2621**

**Measure to Full**

LFO recommends the measure be moved to the full Joint Committee on Ways and Means.

**Motion #2: Move HB 2621 as amended, to the full committee with a Do Pass recommendation.**

**Assignment of Carriers**

Full: \_\_\_\_\_  
1<sup>st</sup> Chamber: \_\_\_\_\_  
2<sup>nd</sup> Chamber: \_\_\_\_\_