

FISCAL IMPACT OF PROPOSED LEGISLATION

Measure: HB 2621 A

Seventy-Eighth Oregon Legislative Assembly – 2015 Regular Session
Legislative Fiscal Office

*Only Impacts on Original or Engrossed
Versions are Considered Official*

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Measure Description:

Authorizes City of Portland to operate photo radar on urban high crash corridors.

Government Unit(s) Affected:

Cities, Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT), Judicial Department

Summary of Expenditure Impact

See explanation below.

Summary of Revenue Impact

See Revenue Impact Statement.

Local Government Mandate:

This bill does not affect local governments' service levels or shared revenues sufficient to trigger Section 15, Article XI of the Oregon Constitution.

Analysis:

This bill would allow the City of Portland to operate fixed photo radar systems in urban high crash corridors under specified conditions. Current law allows photo radar systems to be operated for no more than four hours in one location and an officer must be present while the system is in operation.

The Legislative Fiscal Office will further review the fiscal impact of this bill for the Joint Committee on Ways and Means. The Oregon Judicial Department (OJD) anticipates an increase in citations being issued because of 24-hour operation and the photo radar systems not needing to be staffed. The City of Portland anticipates installing 10 to 20 fixed photo radar cameras in various high crash corridors. It is assumed that the City of Portland will install the photo radar systems between January of 2016 and July of 2018 and each camera will result in 15 additional citations per 24 hour period. OJD anticipates additional resources will be required to handle the increased workload.

Currently, Multnomah County Circuit Court receives approximately 30,000 speeding citations per year, or 82 citations per day, issued by officers stationed in a van using photo radar under limited circumstances. OJD estimates an additional 55,000 new citations in 2015-17 and 219,000 citations in 2017-19 due to the use of fixed photo radar. Given an average cost to process a citation in circuit court of \$39.25, General Fund costs could total approximately \$2.2 million in the 2015-17 biennium and approximately \$8.6 million in 2017-19. Five of the ten urban high crash corridors are east of 122nd Street and these citations would be assigned to the East County Courthouse. This bill would not preclude the City of Portland from using the current manned photo radar vans.

Fines from citations will add additional revenue to the Criminal Fine Account (CFA) and to the City of Portland. The CFA would receive roughly 2/3 of the revenue generated and 1/3 of the revenue would be received by the City of Portland. The measure dedicates the revenue distributed to the City of Portland to the purposes of maintaining the photo radar units and improving traffic safety.

The Legislative Fiscal Office believes this measure warrants a subsequent referral to the Joint Committee on Ways and Means Committee for consideration of this measure's budgetary impact on the State's General Fund.