



City of Independence, Oregon

February 5, 2016

Chair Williamson, Vice-Chairs Gilliam and Hoyle
House Committee on Rules

RE: HB 4130

I respectfully request a "Do Not Pass" on HB 4130 as introduced.

Some of the provisions would put an undue burden on my city, and other cities as well. These include:

1. Requiring retention of all public records for at least two years. File room and computer server space is at a premium, and it is costly to either rent additional space or upgrade the computer network. The Secretary of State worked with the Oregon Association of Municipal Recorders in a comprehensive review to update the Retention Schedule for Cities just this past year. A one-size-fits-all approach to keeping records is not the best use of time or public funds.
2. To require a response within 5 business days to a public records request is not always possible. While I generally am able to do this, if I am out of the office – to trainings, on vacation, etc. – this 5 day limit would not be possible. This small city, and many others, a
3. To limit recovery of fees to \$30 an hour is a disservice to our local residents. It costs what it costs to make copies of records – my time (wages & benefits), cost of paper, copier lease, etc. Effectively, this would end up with the rest of city taxpayers and rate payers subsidizing an individual's request. Many of our city records are already available through our website, making it possible for individuals to search through documents on their own timeline and viewing or printing out just the records they desire.

The Attorney General has already created a Task Force for updating Public Records Law. Many of these issues, I'm sure, will be covered by this committee. Please do not rush to fix something that others have already been commissioned to do.

Thank you for your consideration of my comments, and I look forward to following the progress of this bill.

Sincerely,
Karin Johnson
City Recorder
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