

HB 2471 -1 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

House Committee On Judiciary

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Meeting Dates: 2/27, 3/21

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Prohibits cities from requiring payment of parking violation ticket before defendant can request court hearing or submit written explanation. Declares emergency, effective on passage.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Hardships associated with fines
- Court policies and hours
- Effects of measure

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

-1 Removes emergency clause.

BACKGROUND:

Under current Oregon law, cities may impose fines for violating city ordinances, including those ordinances related to parking. If a city issues a ticket for a parking violation, the defendant may enter a plea of "not guilty" or "no contest" and pay the fine or enter a plea of "not guilty" and set a date for trial. In many jurisdictions, a defendant can also offer a written plea and explanation to the court, in an effort to have the charge dismissed or the fine reduced.

HB 2471 prohibits a court from requiring a defendant to pay the full fine amount or a lesser bail amount before the defendant may request a hearing or submit a written explanation for parking violations.