

HB 2176 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Carrier: Rep. Dexter

House Committee On Judiciary

Action Date: 03/16/21

Action: Do Pass.

Vote: 10-0-0-0

Yeas: 10 - Bynum, Dexter, Helm, Kropf, Lewis, Morgan, Noble, Power, Wallan, Wilde

Fiscal: Fiscal impact issued

Revenue: No revenue impact, statement issued (Indeterminate Impact)

Prepared By: Channa Newell, Counsel

Meeting Dates: 2/1, 3/1, 3/11, 3/16

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Removes \$50 minimum fee added to judgments with monetary obligations that the court is charged with collecting. Retains \$200 maximum fee. Changes authority of Chief Justice to authorize or direct courts and components of branch to waive or suspend fees. Prohibits compromise on restitution or compensatory fine in criminal monetary judgment but allows compromise on other portions of judgment. Takes effect 91st day following adjournment sine die.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Oregon Judicial Department strategic campaign on Access, Equity, and Justice
- Goal of increasing access to courts
- Need for flexibility when setting up repayment plan
- Other efforts to reduce barriers to access

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

No amendment.

BACKGROUND:

Under current law, Oregon courts can set up a payment plan or other collection process for a court judgment. Such plans are required to have an added fee of at least \$50, but no more than \$200. Additionally, while courts are authorized to collect and settle debts, courts are prohibited from settling judgments that contain restitution or compensatory fines.

House Bill 2176 removes the minimum \$50 fee added to judgments that will be collected by the court and allows settling of portions of a judgment that are not restitution or compensatory fine.