

**SB 188 A STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY**

**Carrier:** Rep. Power

**House Committee On Judiciary**

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**Action Date:** 05/06/21

**Action:** Do Pass the A-Eng bill.

**Vote:** 10-0-0-0

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

**Fiscal:** Has minimal fiscal impact

**Revenue:** Has minimal revenue impact

**Prepared By:** Channa Newell, Counsel

**Meeting Dates:** 4/29, 5/6

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**WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:**

Requires all misdemeanors, traffic offenses, and violations occurring east of 122nd Avenue in Multnomah County be conducted at court in Gresham unless accused person requests proceedings in Portland. Requires felony offenses be conducted in court in Portland. Allows a proceeding to be returned to Gresham court if accused person is not in custody and all warrants have been vacated or executed.

**ISSUES DISCUSSED:**

- Goal to increase access to justice
- Specific to Multnomah County
- Transfer of certain proceedings to downtown Portland courthouse
- History of measure

**EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:**

No amendment.

**BACKGROUND:**

Currently, all traffic offenses or misdemeanor proceedings that occur east of 122nd Avenue within the north and south confines of Multnomah County are conducted in the Gresham court location of the Multnomah County Circuit Court. Proceedings originating in the Gresham court must be transferred to the Portland court if the defendant is in custody of the sheriff or Department of Corrections at any point in the proceeding or if a warrant has been issued against the defendant.

Senate Bill 188 A clarifies that all misdemeanor, traffic offenses, and violations originating east of 122nd Avenue in Multnomah County will be conducted in the Gresham court unless the accused requests a trial in Portland. The measure clarifies that any proceedings in which there is a felony charge, the accused person is in custody, or for which a warrant is outstanding would be conducted in the Portland court unless good cause is shown. Additionally, the measure allows a party to move that a proceeding be returned to the Gresham court if the accused person is not in custody and all warrants issued by the circuit court have been vacated or executed.