



ALEX CUYLER

Intergovernmental Relations Manager
Alex.Cuyler@co.lane.or.us

DATE: March 10, 2021
TO: House Committee on Judiciary Subcommittee on Civil Law
RE: HB 2177, relating to state court technology fees

Dear Chair Power and Members of the Subcommittee:

Lane County is opposed to HB 2177 which would place a fee onto felony case filings made by the local office of the District Attorney. We question the policy rationale for this structure, which appears to be to develop a tax on one state function to support another state function, with at least part of the burden to the local public partner, the county government.

If this measure were to be signed by the Governor, the fee generated from Lane County would be \$359,448.00. Equating that to the human resource value, which is paid for by Lane County, would be equal to two Deputy District Attorneys and one support staff person. The current FTE in the Criminal Division is 24.

Lane County is well aware of how important an adequately staffed Office of the District Attorney is. During the recession of 2008, we were forced to cut staff across Lane County and the particular dynamic we soon saw was that cutting the capacity of the District Attorney does then impact the number of prosecutions they are able to undertake, which then reduces the number of people being supervised in the County, which then decreases Community Corrections Act and Justice Reinvestment funding. It is a terrible cycle that decreases the resources aimed directly at reducing recidivism in our community and we fear that if HB 2177 is passed into law, we'll see that same dynamic repeat.

We urge the Subcommittee to take no further action on this measure.

ELECTRONICALLY SUBMITTED BY ALEX CUYLER, LANE COUNTY
INTERGOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS MANAGER