

**TESTIMONY ON HB 2008
BEFORE THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON RULES
APRIL 27, 2023**

**SUBMITTED BY: AJA HOLLAND, SENIOR ASSISTANT GENERAL COUNSEL
OREGON JUDICIAL DEPARTMENT**

Chair Fahey, Vice-Chairs Breese-Iverson and Kropf, Members of the Committee:

My name is Aja Holland, Senior Assistant General Counsel at the Oregon Judicial Department (OJD). I want to start by thanking the numerous sponsors and chief sponsors for bringing this bill forward. OJD generally supports the goals of the measure. Increasing the limitations for exemptions from execution and garnishment and expanding actions for unlawful debt collection would help to mitigate disproportionate outcomes caused by the collection of judgments, including judgments for collection of court fines and fees, in alignment with our [Strategic Campaign Initiative 1.2](#).

My testimony is offered for informational purposes and to provide some observations as to how the implementation of this bill may affect the Oregon courts. It is OJD's understanding that an additional amendment will be forthcoming that will address some of the technical concerns raised by OJD, in relation to the -1 amendment. Based on that information, OJD is neutral on HB 2008.

HB 2008-1 increases the base amounts for exemptions from execution and garnishment and would require the State Court Administrator (SCA) to increase those amounts annually to account for changes in the Consumer Price Index (CPI). Existing statutes require the SCA to annually adjust the Oregon Tort Claims Act limits and the statutory wrongful conviction compensation amounts. Prior to each July 1 effective date, updated amounts are sent out for public comment, finalized, and published on the OJD website with notice to interested parties. This measure would require the SCA to perform similar adjustments and calculations for certain execution and garnishment exemptions.

We worked closely with Oregon Consumer Justice (OCJ) on the forthcoming amendment, which aligns the process for making the CPI adjustments in this bill with our existing process for adjustment of the Oregon Tort Claims Act and wrongful conviction compensation adjustments and makes other changes intended to aid implementation of the measure.

I want to thank the proponents of the measure, including Chris Coughlin and Oregon Consumer Justice, and Sybil Hebb with the Oregon Law Center, for being open and amenable to our feedback. Given the collaborative efforts and work on this bill, OJD is neutral on HB 2008.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide written testimony. If you have any questions, please contact Aja Holland, Senior Assistant General Counsel, OJD Office of General Counsel (OGC) at Aja.T.Holland@ojd.state.or.us or Kaiti Ferguson, Senior Staff Counsel, OJD Office of Legislative Affairs (OLA) at Kaiti.Ferguson@ojd.state.or.us.