

Submitter: Tamara Hamilton
On Behalf Of:
Committee: House Committee On Rules
Measure: HJR201

As someone familiar with governmental budgeting for public safety for over 20+ years, I can say personally and professionally there are major concerns with this Bill. No one knows local communities needs with public safety better then the people who serve them in these communities where residents have a yearly say on spending and also a vote on measures for special funding if it goes beyond a cap rate. This proposed Bill is a power and money grab that's disturbing to say the least, especially in a time where Oregon citizens are hurting financially. We are already top 5-8 depending on the source, for taxes and top 25 for property taxes. Add transit tax, gas tax, utility tax, the new workers leave tax to name a few, and you still want more.

Poorly written with a vagueness that is intentional and promises to over tax citizens for this to be used as a slush fund, you need to be more effective with that you have, as almost every other state program has failed to fix issues and seems to be a waste of money and time. You want to tax everything we own as seen in section 16B and you get to determine what property is beyond land and a home, in order to do it. You do away with caps that were voted in by voters in other measures on two occassions. You fail to define what is public safety and how you will allocate these funds to communities throughout the state since it looks to be replacing police and fire public safety funding at a county or city level? Reading this bill, it's shameful this is even being put out to citizens. Seeing other comments I know it's not popular on either side of the aisle outside of our state Capitol. Oregonians want fiscal responsibility and for you to address issues with money you have that audits and reporting shows are being wasted and used incorrectly by the groups you give this money too. That has to stop. The fiscal waste coming out of Salem gives us absolutely no return on our investment now and our communities and state are worse for it.

Let's be real here with your intentions and where you want this money to really go. Be brave and write a bill that directly addresses the issues you want to fix with this Bill and see if Oregonians want that too. See if our citizens vision matches the Dem majority held ideas pushed from these committees instead of hiding them in a piece of legislation that's so poorly done, it's unprofessional at best and sadly laughable at worst.

Our economy isn't well. People are facing gigantic cost increases in power and heat which you in this chamber and boards within Government are directly responsible for. Inflation is keeping food off tables. Record unemployment in OR according to one article. Housing is costly because of your decisions and a poor economy and poor spending decisions are causing interest rates to go up and yet here you are...

wanting more. I've lived all my life in Oregon, proud of some of our progressive views, but that's changing quickly with what I see coming out of this building and the absolutely poor decisions and failed attempts at implementation that continually occurs. You don't need to be touching public safety and certainly not for communities state wide that are already doing well and giving needed and quality services to our residents. If you want to fix a supposed housing crisis, write that Bill. While you're at it, start planning that better so prime farmland isn't being eaten up which hurts your green agenda and ensures no way of maneuvering out of food insecurities your experts predict in Oregon's future.

This Bill truly needs to die in committee. You know it too. That's why you informed Oregonians of it on a Friday and gave us such a short turn around time to prepare to oppose it. For once put the good of your state and it's people over party and recognize this isn't the right thing for Oregonians. Address issues you want to address head on with smartly written Bills and not through a backdoor mess that will hurt us all in your hands.