



To: Members of the House Judiciary Committee

From: Sheriff Jason Myers, Marion County
Oregon State Sheriffs Association

Date: March 15, 2017

Re: Support for HB 2618 with the Dash 1 Amendment

Chair Barker and members of the committee, for the record, my name is Jason Myers. I am the Marion County Sheriff and I am here today on behalf of the Oregon State Sheriffs Association to support HB 2618 with adoption of the dash 1 amendment.

Oregon's County Sheriff's perform a wide range of public safety services beyond traditional policing and community corrections that include the serving of summons, subpoena's, citations, orders and notices for a wide range of civil actions, suits and proceedings where a fee is charged. The purpose of HB 2618 is to seek an increase in these fees to address the increased cost to Sheriff's offices for performing these responsibilities. Currently, there is no provision in statute for increasing these fees based on cost of living and the last time we approached the legislature to adjust these fees was in 2009. At the time, we testified to actual cost for serving a document by the second attempt was anywhere from \$70 to 80 so our request today is not designed to recover the actual cost.

By comparison, surrounding states in 2009 charged between \$35 and \$45 for service per person but unlike Oregon, they also charge for a return of service fees, mileage (without limit) and notary fees. By statute, we do not charge these extra fees.

In HB 2618, as written, we included a provision that would allow these fees to be increased based on cost of living over time. The bill currently tasks the State Court Administrators office with the responsibility for calculating any increases based on the Portland-Salem, OR-WA Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers for All Items as published by the Bureau of Labor Statistics of the United States Department of Labor. While we would like to explore the possibility of a more regular way to revisit and adjust these fees, it is clear that the State Court Administrators office is not the appropriate entity to make this calculation. As a result, we requested a dash one amendment that removes the COLA increase provision altogether.

Thank you for your consideration. Please support HB 2618 with adoption of the dash 1 amendment.