

HB 2471 A STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Senate Committee On Judiciary

Prepared By: Michael Lantz, Counsel

Meeting Dates: 4/18

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Prohibits cities from requiring payment before defendant can request court hearing or submit written explanation for parking violation.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

No amendment.

BACKGROUND:

Under current Oregon law, cities may impose fines for violating city ordinances, including ordinances related to parking. If a city issues a ticket for a parking violation, the defendant may enter a plea of "guilty" or "no contest" and pay the fine, or enter a plea of "not guilty" and set a date for trial. In many jurisdictions, a defendant can also offer a written plea and explanation to the court, in an effort to have the charge dismissed or the fine reduced. Some cities in Oregon require that a bail amount be paid before the court can set a hearing or consider a written explanation.

House Bill 2471 A prohibits a court from requiring a defendant to pay the full fine amount or a bail amount before the defendant may request a hearing or submit a written explanation for parking violations.