



Oregon's State Courts: 2021 Legislative Preview

A preview of the concepts brought by the Chief Justice and leading topics in justice services in 2021.

Oregon Judicial Department Bills

- **Aid and Assist Reform (SB 295).** Modifies processes to address persons not able to aid and assist in their defense to criminal charges. The 2021 request, supported by a broad coalition of stakeholders, includes consensus amendments to SB 1575-A.
- **Fairness in Court Collections (HB 2176).** Repeals the \$50 minimum charge to set up a payment plan, modifies the Chief Justice's authority over courts and divisions to waive or suspend payment plan fees, and authorizes compromise (settlement) of financial obligations in criminal judgments other than restitution or compensatory fines.
- **Criminal Case Initiation Fees (HB 2177).** Allows the Chief Justice to charge reasonable fees to counties for the cost of providing electronic filing services for felony and misdemeanor cases. Applies only in counties where the District Attorney files more than 500 felony cases per calendar year. Supports OJD's tech fund.
- **Chief Justice Authority During Emergencies (SB 296).** Makes permanent the Chief Justice authority to extend or suspend specified statutory timelines and order remote instead of in-person appearances in civil and criminal cases during and immediately following a declared state of emergency.
- **Judicial Marshal Retirement Parity (SB 297).** Provides that the three Judicial Marshals are eligible for same retirement benefits as other peace officers.
- **Reducing Tax Court Fees (HB 2178).** Reduces statutory filing fee in Magistrate Division to \$50 and specifies time by which petitioner must pay filing fee if the fee waiver request is denied by the court, establishing the date of filing as the date of dispatch.
- **Housekeeping Measures (SB 298).** Non-substantive changes that would conform language in civil stalking statutes; requires petition and declaration in sex offender reporting cases; modifies venue provisions in cases to change both name and gender identity; requires judgments identify any Title IV-D child support order; removes notarization requirement for stipulated modifications of parenting time orders.

Non-OJD Concepts Related to Court Services

Family Treatment Courts

Expungements and Set-Asides: Expanding Access and Services

Full Faith and Credit Between State Courts and Tribal Justice Systems

Housing Reforms

Oregon State Bar Bills, Including Services to Self-Represented Litigants

Juvenile Justice Reform

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