FISCAL IMPACT OF PROPOSED LEGISLATION

81st Oregon Legislative Assembly – 2022 Regular Session Legislative Fiscal Office

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Measure Description:

Authorizes duly authorized traffic enforcement agents to review and issue citations based on photographs taken by photo red light cameras or photographs taken by photo radar cameras.

Government Unit(s) Affected:

Cities, Oregon Judicial Department (OJD), Counties, Oregon State Police (OSP)

Summary of Fiscal Impact:

Costs related to the measure are indeterminate at this time - See explanatory analysis.

Analysis:

This measure authorizes duly authorized traffic enforcement agents to review and issue citations based on photographs taken by red light cameras or photographs taken by photo radar cameras. The measure defines "duly authorized traffic enforcement agent" as an individual who is employed, appointed and duly sworn in by the governing body of the incorporated city in which the agent performs the agent's duties and has completed all necessary technical, administrative and other training to review photographs and issue citations; duly authorized traffic enforcement agents are not police officers. This measure authorizes duly authorized traffic enforcement agents to present evidence, examine and cross-examine witnesses and make arguments in trials relating to citations issued by the agent.

The fiscal impact for the Oregon Judicial Department (OJD) is indeterminate. OJD anticipates this measure will have the greatest impact on Multnomah County Circuit Court due to Portland being the only jurisdiction that uses fixed photo radar; however, there are other jurisdictions that use photo red light cameras. This measure would allow Multnomah County to expand their use of fixed photo radar cameras and photo red light cameras which could potentially lead to an increase in citations and criminal filings. OJD cannot quantify the potential increase in citations and criminal filings in counties that use traffic camera systems, however, if there is a substantial increase in citations and criminal filings, the agency may need to return to the legislature to request additional resources.

There is no fiscal impact for the Department of State Police, cities or counties.