

I OPPOSE [HB 5032]...Is the Public Records Advocate's accomplishments worthy to justify [\$895,407]?

In my opinion, the Public Records Advocate has not performed to reasonable expectations.

Yamhill County uses the Public Records Act as a "Revenue Center" charging multiple Departmental Fees and "dragging their feet" to produce documents requested. In some cases, the "Requestor" is paying for "redactions" instead of "Public Record Information."

I have had many "Public Record Requests" experience in San José, California.

In San José, the speed and "completeness" of Public Records Requests is exceptional.

The costs for "Public Record Requests," depending on the number of documents is far, far less than charges imposed by Yamhill County, Oregon. "Public Record" costs were that of a thumb-drive or a compact disc-only. "Free if you provided your own thumb-drive and or compact disc."

In Yamhill County, every County Department who has a document and or documents pertinent to the 'records request' imposes Fees for Departmental services and additional and charge of each single copied sheet of paper.

It has been approximately six (6) years since I made a "Public Record Request" in Yamhill County. The projected costs were so high I withdrew my request and my desire to file anymore. As such, Yamhill County's Fee policy effectively thwarts the "Public Record Requests" program. Unless, the "Requestor" is made of money.

Now, I am not "beating-up" on Yamhill County. Staff members are every nice and competent people. The managerial mandate to recoup calculated costs for production of documents is a material issue of concern. In addition, Yes, I know Counties can charge Fees but the taxpayers already pay for the "Public Records."

[HB 5032] states, "SECTION 1. Notwithstanding any other law limiting expenditures, the amount of \$895,407 is established for the biennium beginning July 1, 2023, as the maximum limit for payment of expenses from fees, moneys or other revenues, including Miscellaneous Receipts, but excluding lottery funds and federal funds, collected or received by the Public Records Advocate....

...SECTION 2. **This 2023 Act being necessary for the immediate preservation of the public peace, health and safety, an emergency is declared to exist,** and this 2023 Act takes effect July 1, 2023."

The aforementioned language in "SECTION 2" is an insult for the entire sentence is untruthful.

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Mr. Oregon Concurs and says, "Reform the Public Records Requests system."

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