



Legislative Fiscal Office
83rd Oregon Legislative Assembly
2025 Regular Session

Prepared by: Roxanne Adams
Reviewed by: Amanda Beitel
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Bill Title: Relating to county recording fees.

Government Unit(s) Affected: Counties

Summary of Fiscal Impact

Costs related to the measure are anticipated to be minimal - see explanatory analysis.

Summary of Revenue Impact

Revenues related to the measure are anticipated to be indeterminate - see explanatory analysis.

Measure Description

The measure removes the statutory cap of \$10 on certain document recording fees charged by the county clerk. All monies collected under this measure are credited to the Public Land Corner Preservation Fund, established by ORS 203.148. Monies in this fund are used for expenses by the county surveyor in the establishment, reestablishment, maintenance, and recordkeeping of government survey corners.

The statutory \$10 cap has existed since the Fund’s establishment in 1985. By removing the cap, the measure would allow each county to establish or change fees for certain county document recording instruments, such as real property records. Based on information received by counties, it is assumed that all 36 counties, except for Washington County, currently collect the maximum \$10 fee per land document recorded. An estimated 5% of this revenue is retained by county clerks for administrative costs, with the remainder deposited into the Fund.

Fiscal Analysis

There is a minimal fiscal impact to counties, however the revenue impact is indeterminate. The measure does not require counties to modify its fees, and which counties may decide to increase the fee and to what level is unknown and will be based on the funding required for the county surveyor. Document recording volumes can vary by county and year-to-year, and average land recording data by individual county is unavailable at this time. It is estimated that small counties record 100-200 land documents per year, and medium counties estimate approximately 50,000 land documents. Data on the three metro-area counties varies from 50,000 to 130,000 documents per year.

Relevant Dates

The measure takes effect on January 1, 2026.