

HB 3175 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Senate Committee On Veterans, Emergency Management, Federal and World Affairs

Prepared By: Kevin Rancik, LPRO Analyst

Meeting Dates: 3/25, 4/29

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

The measure removes the cap on the fee that counties may charge for the Public Land Corner Preservation Fund.

Fiscal impact: Fiscal impact issued

Revenue impact: No revenue impact

HOUSE VOTE: Ayes, 47; Nays, 9

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- How the fee is paid, used, and by who
- Process for counties to raise their fee
- Tying the fee cap to inflation versus raising it
- Workload and process of repairing and replacing monuments
- Impact of disasters on monuments

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

No amendment.

BACKGROUND:

Public land corners mark the boundary corners on portions of land. The federal government established public land corners in Oregon beginning in 1852 to facilitate settlement. These were historically marked with posts, stones, and other objects, though over time many of these markers have been damaged or destroyed. Land surveying often requires these corners be identified, and some counties operate corner restoration programs with the goal of replacing these markers throughout their jurisdiction.

Oregon statute permits counties to establish a Public Land Corner Preservation Fund by ordinance, with funds used exclusively to pay expenses incurred and authorized by the county surveyor in the establishment, re-establishment, and maintenance of government survey corners. Current statute limits this fee to a maximum of \$10, the amount of which can be adopted after providing public notice and holding a public hearing regarding the fee, in addition to other fees the county clerk charges.

House Bill 3175 removes the \$10 cap on the fee for a county's Public Land Corner Preservation Fund.