



LACEY BEATY
34th Mayor of Beaverton

02/12/2025

Chair Prozanski and Members of the Senate Committee on Judiciary,

I am writing to express my strong opposition to Oregon Senate Bill 665. This bill, which requires public bodies to transfer moneys derived from a fine or civil penalty to the State General Fund, would have significant negative consequences for the City of Beaverton and its residents.

Since 2020, Beaverton's municipal court has contributed over \$4.3 million to the State General Fund. This is a substantial amount of revenue that has been collected through municipal fees for violations, ranging from \$115 to \$440, depending on the severity of the offense. Of these fees, the first \$50 is remitted to the State, with an additional \$16 going to the County. These funds play a critical role in supporting both local and state services.

If SB 665 were to be enacted, requiring Beaverton to forego all revenue to the State, it would place the city in the difficult position of cutting services to offset these financial losses. This comes at a time of uncertainty of the Federal funding availability for municipal courts that further threatens our ability to keep services in place. This would have a direct and harmful impact on Beaverton's residents, as the burden shifts to an already overburdened Circuit Court system.

The City of Beaverton's municipal court also processes approximately 2,000 criminal cases per year, many of which do not carry fines, meaning that if Beaverton's court operations were to be transferred to the County, both the County and the State would absorb the financial responsibility for cases that do not generate fines. This not only adds an additional financial strain to the County and State but would also exacerbate the already high caseloads in the Circuit Court, further complicating the judicial process and delaying case resolution.

The current system, where Beaverton operates its own municipal court, allows for a more efficient, localized handling of cases. It ensures that fines are allocated appropriately while providing Beaverton with the necessary revenue to fund local services without overburdening the Circuit Court or other state resources. SB 665 threatens to disrupt this balance, leading to unintended consequences for both local governance and the broader justice system.



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For these reasons, I urge the committee to reject SB 665 and allow municipalities like Beaverton to continue operating their municipal courts without the additional financial burden this bill would impose.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Lacey Beaty
Mayor of Beaverton