

April 2, 2025

Senate Committee on Rules
900 Court Street NE
Salem, Oregon 97301

RE: Support for HB 3385 - Clarifies Fees Charged for Public Records

Chair Jama, Vice-Chair Bonham, and Committee Members,

Thank you for your consideration of HB 3385, a bill that will harmonize Oregon's statutes regarding public records fees that county clerks may charge.

Currently, there are two statutes that could be interpreted differently regarding the fees that county clerks can charge for certain documents upon a public records request. The fees in ORS 205.320 reflect the array of services that county clerks provide and the ability for clerks to recover the costs of performing these services. These fees were codified in that statute after a statewide fee study and are periodically updated to reflect costs. House Bill 3385 makes a slight amendment to Oregon's public records law which clarifies that the fees listed in ORS 205 apply to public records requests for documents from county clerks.

House Bill 3385 will provide more clarity and stability for Multnomah County's Division of Assessment, Recording, and Taxation, as well as for clerks across Oregon. The House Committee on Rules unanimously recommended a "do pass" and the full House of Representatives passed the bill with 55 yes votes and one no vote on March 6.

Thank you for considering our comments, and we respectfully request your support for HB 3385.

Sincerely,

Tom Powers
Multnomah County Government Relations

Submitted by Tom Powers - tom.powers@multco.us (503) 348-2021