



TO: Senate Committee on Rules  
FROM: Oregon Recreation & Park Association  
DATE: May 28, 2025  
RE: SB 1077 -1 Concerns

The Oregon Recreation and Park Association includes city, county and special district parks agencies, and 2,200 park and recreation professionals and volunteers. The parks in your legislative district are likely part of our organization.

Along with other local governments, we worry about increased need for resources to comply with public records law. While SB 1077 -1 amendments seek to add a new category of requestor that seemingly provides allowances for public agency, it actually adds new steps in determinations, compliance and transfer of funds. This leads to more work, more room for error, and more reason for litigation.

But our largest concern is regarding the need for modernization of all public records law.

When Oregon first passed its public records laws, it allowed access to documents created on a typewriter. Obviously, the nature of creating those documents meant there were fewer of them then than today when the use of email, word processing, zoom meetings, and other digital advances have meant that "public records" are being created at a rate hundreds of times greater than they once were.

Every public agency now simply has too many public records to manage in this manner. We need to make big changes to modernize the law and align it with today's technology. Some examples of changes to be considered:

1. Increase the list of things the public entity is required to publish each year. This could be a large, annual upload of certain information. Perhaps some information could be required to be uploaded monthly. This information would then be exempt from public records requests, and the public would access from the agency's website. We acknowledge that not all agencies have an internet presence, but we would be pleased to work to find solutions to existing barriers.
2. There should be a list of certain public records that can be requested by any person at any time, through a process very similar to what we have now. But this list should be limited to things clearly of public interest.
3. There should be a list of public records that will only be released if it is in the public's best interest to do so. The decision as to public interest might entail more avenues than just the local DA's to share the onus of requests and consideration of whether public interest is enough to justify the huge amount of time that would take.

We would welcome the opportunity to help Oregon modernize its public records policies and processes, but in the meantime, we do not believe SB 1077 -1 solves the problems inherent in an outdated system.

Sincerely,

*Amanda Parsons*

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Executive Director  
Oregon Recreation and Park Association