



May 28, 2025

State Committee on Rules
Oregon State Capitol
900 Court Street NE
Salem, OR 97301

RE: Opposition on SB 1077 – Public Records Law Changes

Dear Chair and Members of the Committee,

The City of Medford respectfully opposes SB 1077. While we support government transparency, this bill introduces new tangible burdens without addressing any actual problem that we are observing locally.

Under current law, requestors can make practical arguments for fee waivers, public bodies can recover reasonable costs, and District Attorneys have the discretion to resolve disputes, and where appropriate, require public entities to grant substantial or complete fee waivers. That system works. SB 1077 replaces it with a more rigid process that significantly increases the administrative load on cities like ours, without delivering meaningful substantive improvements.

The bill would also eliminate the value of existing guidance from the Attorney General's Public Records Manual and past administrative rulings, increasing legal uncertainty and likely leading to more litigation in the short term.

Although SB 1077 allows surcharges on data brokers, this provision offers minimal benefit to many local governments, and does not outweigh the challenges the bill creates. Furthermore, under the current language of the bill, two-thirds of this surcharge goes to the State instead of being retained by the local government, and thus cannot function as an offset for increased administrative costs or more frequent waivers.

We urge you to maintain the current framework and vote no on SB 1077.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Rt Field', written in a cursive style.

Robert Field, City Manager