

Testimony of Kyung Park, State Affairs Advisor

Testimony on SB 1077 -1

Senate Committee on Rules

May 28, 2025



Metro is the elected regional government that serves nearly 1.7 million people in the 24 cities and three counties of the Portland metropolitan area. We provide a broad range of public services that includes land use and transportation planning, housing and homeless services, solid waste and recycling operations, management of parks and natural areas, and operation of major visitor facilities.

Metro is opposed to the -1 amendment to SB 1077 which makes several changes to public records law. The amendment increases administrative load without a funding source and interferes with current processes without delivering substantial improvements to the existing system.

The addition of a commercial requestor with higher fees to offset waivers and reductions is administratively complex. New procedures and staff time would be needed to ensure proper tracking and compliance to adhere to the 33/67 split in excess revenue. Currently, the excess revenue from fees cannot be used to pay for this increased administrative burden since it falls outside of the actual cost to process a public records request. Essentially, Metro would collect fees on behalf of the state without being compensated to carry out the duties outlined in the bill.

Additionally, in Section 2, the bill language requires Metro to prioritize requests in the public interest over other requests. This interferes with Metro's administrative process and ability to make independent determinations on prioritization of multiple requests. Prioritization of requests is difficult and takes into consideration multiple factors including overall needs of the public and the agency. Although requests in the public interest are important, it is not the only factor when prioritizing requests.

We urge you to oppose the -1 amendment to SB 1077.