

Submitter: Thomas Busse
On Behalf Of: Oregon Taxpayers
Committee: Joint Committee On Ways and Means Subcommittee On Capital Construction
Measure: SB1501

I oppose this bill as bad government because of the way it treats a new Private Security fee fund in a bill whose sneaky title is about housing affordability.

Private Security firms did not require business licensure in Oregon for 150 years without problems until the legislature passed HB 2527 in 2021. The legislative record shows at the time the public was told the anticipated private security fee of \$250, but instead in a related bill the new fee is coming in at \$656. The bill also contained no limitations, appellate processes, or guidelines over when state officials revoke or fail to issue licenses - which is really what this program is about: controlling the manner private security operates such as firearms and taser control without any legislative debate. Because the fee-program is self-sustaining through a special fund created in this bill, this creates every incentive for bureaucrats to grow their own program without oversight - issuing penalties they can then use for their own pet projects.

To deter this type of activity by bureaucrats as a matter of good government, fines should always go to the general fund, not special funds. We've seen this bad behavior at the Oregon Medical Board.