



Oregon

Theodore R. Kulongoski, Governor

Department of State Police
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NOTICE OF FEE REVIEW

February 1, 2010

To Our Valued Customers,

The Public Safety Subcommittee of the Ways and Means Committee of the 2009 Oregon Legislature has directed the Oregon State Police (OSP) to review the current fees for the Identification Services Section (ISS) and report back to the 2011 Legislature the results of the review. The direction was provided via a budget note attached to House Bill 5037, OSP's main budget bill for the 2009–2011 biennium.

Per the budget note, the review must include an estimate of what a specific fee must be to support its share of costs for the total programs. One potential outcome of the review would be that the Identification Services Section would no longer receive state general fund revenues, but be completely dependent on fees collected for the services provided.

The financial implications of the direction we have received are significant given the nature of the services we provide. All services are dependent on the collection and maintenance of fingerprints and criminal history records, the costs of which must be incorporated into our future fees for services.

The ISS, also known as the Bureau of Criminal Identification, was established under ORS 181.066 as the state's central repository for criminal offender record information. Our customers include law enforcement, criminal justice and non-criminal justice agencies as well as the general public.

Examples of the services potentially impacted by the direction we have received include:

- All records checks (includes criminal justice, non-criminal justice and public record checks)
- Firearms instant checks
- Concealed handgun license checks
- Public fingerprinting
- Criminal record expungements
- Identification verification
- General criminal history file records maintenance, access and response times

The purpose of this notice is to bring to your attention the direction we have been given and to inform you of the review process we have undertaken to evaluate the required funding and subsequent fee structure. You have received the notice because you are a customer of our services, either directly or indirectly.

It is important to note that the review is all encompassing, and includes but is not limited to, services utilized and relied upon by local law enforcement, state regulatory agencies, volunteer organizations, local governments, and the general public.

The objectives of our review are:

- To ensure we continue to support the mission and goals of our customers.
- Review what a specific fee must be if ISS were to become 100% fee supported.
- To ensure cost recovery includes both the actual cost for direct services and the actual cost for indirect services (the core infrastructure and current non-fee services).
- To determine how fees/funding should be structured based on the overall mandatory services provided.

We recognize the importance of informing our customers and business partners, and in doing so, soliciting their input and suggestions. Because the outcome of the review will impact some, if not all, of our customers, your input is critical and would be greatly appreciated.

We intend to inform and collect input in a number of different ways: 1) through this notice as a mass mailing to our known customers; 2) posting the notice on our webpage and within the ISS office public area for our customers from the general public; 3) conducting statewide regional meetings in order to speak to customers face to face; and, 4) establishing a group of interested stakeholders representing as many of our major customer groups as possible.

While it's premature to tell what the outcome of the review will be or what the future fee schedule might look like, we are committed to including you in the review process and affording you as much notice as possible prior to the actual implementation of any new or revised fees.

We know this is a difficult time and that many, if not all of our partners are challenged by budget shortfalls. It is our hope that by collaborating on this review, not only will we be certain that all options are considered, but that it will allow us to better communicate in partnership with our customers, the potential impacts fee adjustments could have on the services they receive and/or provide.

Please direct any questions or comments you may have to:

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