

REVENUE: No revenue impact

FISCAL: No fiscal impact

Action:	Do Pass as Amended and Be Printed Engrossed
Vote:	4 - 0 - 1
Yeas:	Deckert, Monnes Anderson, Starr, Metsger
Nays:	0
Exc.:	George L.
Prepared By:	Janet Adkins, Administrator
Meeting Dates:	3/26, 4/2

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES: Allows an experienced Oregon funeral service practitioner to be licensed without requirement for an associate degree. Requires an aggregate 48 months of service as a practitioner apprentice or embalmer apprentice. Deletes specified time periods between apprentice experience and examination. Changes out-of-state experience necessary to obtain Oregon licensure from two years immediately preceding, to three of the five years preceding, application. Deletes requirement that out-of-state requirements be substantially equal to those in Oregon. Specifies that licensed practitioners and embalmers may have no more than three interns at a time.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Apprentice and internship programs
- Effect of time period restrictions on apprentices seeking four-year degrees
- Validity of funeral service experience in other states that may or may not have apprenticeship programs

EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT: Deletes provision of measure that would have authorized apprentice practitioners to perform duties upon first taking custody of a body. Deletes current requirement that apprenticeships occur within a certain number of years prior to the exam date. Allows service as an apprentice for an aggregate instead of a consecutive 48 months. Makes language parallel for embalmer and practitioner apprentices. Specifies that licensed practitioners and embalmers may have no more than three interns at a time.

BACKGROUND: Senate Bill 545-A simplifies and relaxes some strict timelines for funeral service apprentices and for experienced funeral practitioners from other states seeking licensure. The changes are intended to help funeral directors attract experienced practitioners from other states and to give more flexibility to apprentices without lowering experience requirements. Apprentice funeral service practitioners and apprentice embalmers work under the supervision of licensed practitioners and embalmers for a period of at least 12 months before being eligible to apply for licensure; they may serve both apprenticeships concurrently. Apprentices are currently required to complete their apprenticeship within two years of their license exam and may serve as an apprentice for a consecutive 48 months. Senate Bill 545-A deletes this time restriction between apprenticeship and exam and allows service as an apprentice for an aggregate instead of a consecutive four years. These allowances will apply to both practitioner and embalmer apprenticeships. Current law allows licensees to supervise only one apprentice at a time. Senate Bill 545-A maintains this limit and specifies that licensees may have no more than three interns at a time.

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This summary has not been adopted or officially endorsed by action of the committee.