

REVENUE: No revenue impact

FISCAL: Fiscal statement issued

Action:	Do Pass as Amended, Be Printed Engrossed, and Be Referred to the Committee on Ways and Means by prior reference
Vote:	5 - 0 - 0
Yeas:	Bates, Kruse, Morrisette, Morse, Monnes Anderson
Nays:	0
Exc.:	0
Prepared By:	Robert Shook, Administrator
Meeting Dates:	2/19,4/7

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES: Requires Department of Human Services to establish and operate a statewide registry for collection and dissemination of physician orders for life-sustaining treatment (POLST). Authorizes the Department to contract with an entity to establish and/or maintain the registry. Establishes an Oregon POLST Registry Advisory Committee, of which at least one member will represent the interests of minorities.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Confidentiality of information – Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA)
- Pilot project in Clackamas County to begin May 2009
- Advance Directive status
- Training of First Responders on accessing state-wide electronic POLST registry
- POLST Advisory Committee membership

EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT: Authorizes the Department of Human Services to contract with a private or public entity to establish and/or maintain the registry. Makes specific reference to having all Oregonians of all cultures and backgrounds utilizing the POLST registry, and having at least one member of the Advisory Committee representing minorities.

BACKGROUND: Oregon was the first state to develop and promote advance directives, supporting every terminally ill person's right to experience a humane and dignified death in accordance with their wishes. The physician orders for life-sustaining treatment (POLST) is one more step that allows first responders to have electronic access to the person's wishes. POLST is an effective method of transforming a patient's advance directive preference into a medical order. A statewide electronic POLST registry would help ensure immediate access to vital medical orders by emergency medical personnel.

Senate Bill 451-A provides for the establishment of a state-wide registry and delegates responsibility for the registry to the Department of Human Services. The department is to be directed to adopt rules for the registry that will include the manner of submitting information, the release of registry information, procedures to protect the accuracy and confidentiality of information, and a process to permit qualified researchers to access the registry data. The measure also creates an advisory committee to advise the department regarding the implementation, operation and evaluation of the POLST registry. Membership on the advisory committee will include a physician, a health professional, a long term care personnel, a member of the hospice community, an emergency medical technician, and two members of the public with active interest in end-of-life treatment preferences.

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