# House Bill 2669

Sponsored by COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY

## SUMMARY

The following summary is not prepared by the sponsors of the measure and is not a part of the body thereof subject to consideration by the Legislative Assembly. It is an editor's brief statement of the essential features of the measure **as introduced.** 

Creates procedure for defendant charged with aggravated murder to assert that defendant is person with mental retardation and may not be sentenced to death.

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#### A BILL FOR AN ACT

Relating to the death penalty; creating new provisions; and amending ORS 137.463, 138.060, 138.530
 and 163.150.

4 Be It Enacted by the People of the State of Oregon:

SECTION 1. (1) A person with mental retardation is not eligible for the death penalty.

6 (2) A defendant who intends to assert that the defendant is not eligible for the death 7 penalty because the defendant is a person with mental retardation shall file notice with the 8 court of that intention at least 90 days before trial, or if the defendant has pleaded guilty, 9 at least 90 days before the sentencing proceeding described in ORS 163.150, unless the court 10 allows a later filing date for good cause. Upon the filing of the notice:

(a) The state has the right to obtain an independent medical, psychiatric or psychological
 examination of the defendant; and

(b) The defendant waives any claim of confidentiality or privilege applicable to medical, 13psychiatric, psychological, correctional, educational, employment, military or other records 14 that are relevant to the determination of whether the defendant is a person with mental 1516 retardation and that were in existence on the date the offense is alleged to have been com-17 mitted. The waiver described in this paragraph applies only to a sentencing proceeding conducted under ORS 163.150, a death warrant hearing described in ORS 137.463, a 18 post-conviction relief hearing conducted under ORS 138.510 to 135.680 and any hearing on an 19 application for a writ of habeas corpus. 20

(3)(a) Any medical, psychiatric or psychological examination of the defendant under this section must be conducted by a person with significant experience in examining persons with mental retardation and must be recorded. The recording must contain both audio and video.

(b) The provisions of ORS 135.805 to 135.873 apply to material and information pertaining to the issue of mental retardation. The obligations to disclose imposed by this paragraph shall be performed as soon as practicable following the filing of the notice described in subsection (2) of this section.

(4) If a defendant files the notice described in subsection (2) of this section, the court shall hold a hearing to determine if the defendant is eligible for the death penalty under this section. The hearing must be held prior to the selection of a jury. At the hearing, the defendant bears the burden of proving, by a preponderance of the evidence, that the defendant

1	is not eligible for the death penalty under this section. At the conclusion of the hearing, the
<b>2</b>	court shall enter an order finding that the defendant, if convicted of aggravated murder:
3	(a) Is eligible for the death penalty under this section; or
4	(b) Is not eligible for the death penalty under this section.
5	(5) As used in this section:
6	(a) "Classes of adaptive functioning" means the following skill areas:
7	(A) Communication.
8	(B) Self-care.
9	(C) Home living.
10	(D) Social and interpersonal.
11	(E) Use of community resources.
12	(F) Self-direction.
13	(G) Functional academic.
14	(H) Work.
15	(I) Leisure activities.
16	(J) Health.
17	(K) Safety.
18	(b) "Mental retardation" means significantly subaverage intellectual functioning existing
19	concurrently with substantial impairment in at least two classes of adaptive functioning,
20	that originates before a person reaches 18 years of age.
21	(c) "Significantly subaverage intellectual functioning" means an intelligence quotient that
22	is at least two standard deviations below the mean on a standardized intelligence test.
23	SECTION 2. ORS 163.150 is amended to read:
24	163.150. (1)(a) Upon a finding that the defendant is guilty of aggravated murder, the court, ex-
25	cept as otherwise provided in subsection (3) of this section, shall conduct a separate sentencing
26	proceeding to determine whether the defendant shall be sentenced to life imprisonment, as described
27	in ORS 163.105 (1)(c), life imprisonment without the possibility of release or parole, as described in

ORS 163.105 (1)(b), or death. The proceeding shall be conducted in the trial court before the trial jury as soon as practicable. If a juror for any reason is unable to perform the function of a juror, 2930 the juror shall be dismissed from the sentencing proceeding. The court shall cause to be drawn the 31 name of one of the alternate jurors, who shall then become a member of the jury for the sentencing proceeding notwithstanding the fact that the alternate juror did not deliberate on the issue of guilt. 32The substitution of an alternate juror shall be allowed only if the jury has not begun to deliberate 33 34 on the issue of the sentence. If the defendant has pleaded guilty, the sentencing proceeding shall be conducted before a jury impaneled for that purpose. In the proceeding, evidence may be presented 35 36 as to any matter that the court deems relevant to sentence including, but not limited to, victim im-37 pact evidence relating to the personal characteristics of the victim or the impact of the crime on 38 the victim's family, [and] any aggravating or mitigating evidence relevant to the issue in paragraph [(b)(D)] (b)(E) of this subsection and, if the court has entered an order under section 1 (4)(a) 39 40 of this 2009 Act, any evidence relevant to whether the defendant is a person with mental 41 retardation.[;] However, neither the state nor the defendant shall be allowed to introduce 42[repetitive] evidence that has previously been offered and received during the trial on the issue of

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43 guilt. The court shall instruct the jury that all evidence previously offered and received may be considered for purposes of the sentencing [hearing] proceeding. This paragraph shall not be con-44 strued to authorize the introduction of any evidence secured in violation of the Constitution of the 45

1 United States or of the State of Oregon. The state and the defendant or the counsel of the defendant 2 shall be permitted to present arguments for or against a sentence of death and for or against a 3 sentence of life imprisonment with or without the possibility of release or parole.

4 (b) Upon the conclusion of the presentation of the evidence, the court shall submit the following 5 issues to the jury:

6 (A) If the court has entered an order under section 1 (4)(a) of this 2009 Act, whether the 7 defendant is eligible for the death penalty under section 1 of this 2009 Act;

8 [(A)] (B) Whether the conduct of the defendant that caused the death of the deceased was 9 committed deliberately and with the reasonable expectation that death of the deceased or another 10 would result;

11 [(B)] (C) Whether there is a probability that the defendant would commit criminal acts of vi-12 olence that would constitute a continuing threat to society;

[(C)] (D) If raised by the evidence, whether the conduct of the defendant in killing the deceased
 was unreasonable in response to the provocation, if any, by the deceased; and

15 [(D)] (E) Whether the defendant should receive a death sentence.

16 (c)(A) The court shall instruct the jury to consider, in determining the issues in paragraph 17 (b)(B) to (E) of this subsection, any mitigating circumstances offered in evidence, including but not 18 limited to the defendant's age, the extent and severity of the defendant's prior criminal conduct and 19 the extent of the mental and emotional pressure under which the defendant was acting at the time 20 the offense was committed.

(B) The court shall instruct the jury to answer the question in paragraph [(b)(D)] (b)(E) of this subsection "no" if, after considering any aggravating evidence and any mitigating evidence concerning any aspect of the defendant's character or background, or any circumstances of the offense and any victim impact evidence as described in paragraph (a) of this subsection, one or more of the jurors believe that the defendant should not receive a death sentence.

(d)(A) The defendant must prove the issue submitted under paragraph (b)(A) of this sub section by a preponderance of the evidence.

(B) The state must prove each issue submitted under paragraph [(b)(A) to (C)] (b)(B) to (D) of
this subsection beyond a reasonable doubt[, and].

30 (C) The jury shall return a special verdict of "yes" or "no" on each issue considered.

(e) The court shall charge the jury that it may not answer any issue "yes," under paragraph (b)
of this subsection unless it agrees unanimously.

(f) If the jury returns an affirmative finding on each issue considered under paragraph (b) of this
 subsection, the trial judge shall sentence the defendant to death.

(2)(a) Upon the conclusion of the presentation of the evidence[, the court shall also instruct the
 jury that]:

(A) If the court has entered an order under section 1 (4)(a) of this 2009 Act, the court
shall instruct the jury that if the jury reaches a negative finding on the issue considered
under subsection (1)(b)(A) of this section, the jury may not consider the issues described in
subsection (1)(b)(B) to (E).

(B) The court shall instruct the jury that if [*it*] the jury reaches a negative finding on any issue under subsection (1)(b) of this section, the trial court shall sentence the defendant to life imprisonment without the possibility of release or parole, as described in ORS 163.105 (1)(b), unless 10 or more members of the jury further find that there are sufficient mitigating circumstances to warrant life imprisonment, in which case the trial court shall sentence the defendant to life 1 imprisonment as described in ORS 163.105 (1)(c).

2 (b) If the jury returns a negative finding on any issue under subsection (1)(b) of this section and 3 further finds that there are sufficient mitigating circumstances to warrant life imprisonment, the 4 trial court shall sentence the defendant to life imprisonment in the custody of the Department of 5 Corrections as provided in ORS 163.105 (1)(c).

6 (3)(a) When the defendant is found guilty of aggravated murder, and ORS 137.707 (2) applies, 7 an order has been entered under section 1 (4)(b) of this 2009 Act or the state advises the court 8 on the record that the state declines to present evidence for purposes of sentencing the defendant 9 to death, the court:

10 (A) [*Shall*] **May** not conduct a sentencing proceeding as described in subsection (1) of this sec-11 tion, and a sentence of death [*shall*] **may** not be ordered.

12 (B) Shall conduct a sentencing proceeding to determine whether the defendant shall be sen-13 tenced to life imprisonment without the possibility of release or parole as described in ORS 163.105 (1)(b) or life imprisonment as described in ORS 163.105 (1)(c). If the defendant waives all rights to 14 15 a jury sentencing proceeding, the court shall conduct the sentencing proceeding as the trier of fact. 16 The procedure for the sentencing proceeding, whether before a court or a jury, shall follow the procedure of subsection (1)(a) of this section, as modified by this subsection. In the proceeding, ev-17 18 idence may be presented as to any matter that the court deems relevant to sentence, including, but 19 not limited to, victim impact evidence relating to the personal characteristics of the victim or the 20impact of the crime on the victim's family.

(b) Following the presentation of evidence and argument under paragraph (a) of this subsection, 2122the court shall instruct the jury that the trial court shall sentence the defendant to life 23imprisonment without the possibility of release or parole as described in ORS 163.105 (1)(b), unless after considering all of the evidence submitted, 10 or more members of the jury find there are suf-2425ficient mitigating circumstances to warrant life imprisonment with the possibility of parole as described in ORS 163.105 (1)(c). If 10 or more members of the jury find there are sufficient mitigating 2627circumstances to warrant life imprisonment with the possibility of parole, the trial court shall sentence the defendant to life imprisonment as described in ORS 163.105(1)(c). 28

(c) Nothing in this subsection [*shall preclude*] **precludes** the court from sentencing the defendant to life imprisonment, as described in ORS 163.105 (1)(c), or life imprisonment without the possibility of release or parole, as described in ORS 163.105 (1)(b), pursuant to a stipulation of sentence or stipulation of sentencing facts agreed to and offered by both parties if the defendant waives all rights to a jury sentencing proceeding.

(4) If any part of subsection (2) of this section is held invalid and as a result thereof a defendant who has been sentenced to life imprisonment without possibility of release or parole will instead be sentenced to life imprisonment in the custody of the Department of Corrections as provided in ORS 163.105 [(2)] (1)(c), the defendant shall be confined for a minimum of 30 years without possibility of parole, release on work release or any form of temporary leave or employment at a forest or work camp. Subsection (2) of this section [*shall apply*] **applies** only to trials commencing on or after July 19, 1989.

(5) Notwithstanding subsection (1)(a) of this section, if the trial court grants a mistrial during
the sentencing proceeding, the trial court, at the election of the state, shall either:

(a) Sentence the defendant to life imprisonment [for life] in the custody of the Department of
Corrections as provided in ORS 163.105 (1)(c); or

45 (b) Impanel a new sentencing jury for the purpose of conducting a new sentencing proceeding

- 1 to determine if the defendant should be sentenced to:
- 2 (A) Death;

(B) Life imprisonment [for life] without the possibility of release or parole as provided in ORS
163.105 (1)(b); or

5 (C) **Life** imprisonment [*for life*] in the custody of the Department of Corrections as provided in 6 ORS 163.105 (1)(c).

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**SECTION 3.** ORS 137.463 is amended to read:

8 137.463. (1) When a sentence of death is pronounced, the clerk of the court shall deliver a copy 9 of the judgment of conviction and sentence of death to the sheriff of the county. The sheriff shall 10 deliver the defendant within 20 days from the date the judgment is entered to the correctional in-11 stitution designated by the Director of the Department of Corrections pending the determination of 12 the automatic and direct review by the Supreme Court under ORS 138.012.

(2) If the Supreme Court affirms the sentence of death, a death warrant hearing shall take place in the court in which the judgment was rendered within 30 days after the effective date of the appellate judgment or, upon motion of the state, on a later date. The following apply to a death warrant hearing under this subsection:

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(a) The defendant must be present; and

(b) The defendant may be represented by counsel. If the defendant was represented by appointed counsel on automatic and direct review, that counsel's appointment continues for purposes of the death warrant hearing and any related matters. If that counsel is unavailable, the court shall appoint counsel pursuant to the procedure in ORS 135.050 and 135.055.

(3)(a) If the defendant indicates the wish to waive the right to counsel for the purpose of the death warrant hearing, the court shall inquire of the defendant on the record to ensure that the waiver is competent, knowing and voluntary.

(b) If the court finds that the waiver is competent, knowing and voluntary, the court shall dis-charge counsel.

(c) If the court finds on the record that the waiver of the right to counsel granted by this section is not competent, knowing or voluntary, the court shall continue the appointment of counsel.

(d) Notwithstanding the fact that the court finds on the record that the defendant competently,
knowingly and voluntarily waives the right to counsel, the court may continue the appointment of
counsel as advisor only for the purposes of the death warrant hearing.

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(4) At the death warrant hearing, the court:

(a) After appropriate inquiry in accordance with subsection (5) of this section, shall make
[findings] a finding on the record whether [the defendant suffers from a mental condition that prevents
the defendant from comprehending the reasons for the death sentence or its implication. The defendant
has the burden of proving by a preponderance of the evidence that the defendant suffers from a mental
condition that prevents the defendant from comprehending the reasons for the death sentence or its
implication.] any condition or circumstance exists that would render the execution of the defendant's sentence of death unconstitutionally cruel and unusual.

(b) Shall advise the defendant that the defendant is entitled to counsel in any post-conviction
proceeding and that counsel will be appointed if the defendant is financially eligible for appointed
counsel at state expense.

(c) Shall determine whether the defendant intends to pursue any challenges to the sentence or
conviction. If the defendant states on the record that the defendant does not intend to challenge the
sentence or conviction, the court after advising the defendant of the consequences shall make a

1 finding on the record whether the defendant competently, knowingly and voluntarily waives the 2 right to pursue:

3 (A) A petition for certiorari to the United States Supreme Court;

4 (B) Post-conviction relief under ORS 138.510 to 138.680; and

5 (C) Federal habeas corpus review under 28 U.S.C. 2254.

(5)(a) A defendant who intends to assert that a condition or circumstance exists that 6 would render the execution of the defendant's sentence of death unconstitutionally cruel and 7 unusual shall file a notice with the court of that intention at least 14 days before the 8 9 scheduled death warrant hearing. Notwithstanding the failure of the defendant to file the notice, on motion of the state or the court's own motion, the court may order an inquiry into 10 whether a condition or circumstance exists that would render the execution of the defend-11 12 ant's sentence of death unconstitutionally cruel and unusual if there is a substantial reason to believe that the condition or circumstance exists. 13

(b) Notwithstanding paragraph (a) of this subsection, if a court or a jury has previously found that the condition or circumstance at issue does not exist or does not render the execution of the defendant's sentence of death unconstitutionally cruel and unusual, the court may not inquire as to the existence of the condition or circumstance unless the court finds by clear and convincing evidence that a material change in the condition or circumstance has occurred since the previous finding became final.

(c) In an inquiry conducted under this subsection:

(A) The state and the defendant each have the right to obtain an independent medical,
 psychiatric or psychological examination of the defendant for purposes of the hearing;

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(B) Section 1 (2)(b) and (3) of this 2009 Act apply; and

(C) The defendant has the burden of proving by a preponderance of the evidence that the
 condition or circumstance exists.

[(5) Following the death warrant hearing, a death warrant, signed by the trial judge of the court 2627in which the judgment was rendered and attested by the clerk of that court, shall be drawn and delivered to the superintendent of the correctional institution designated by the Director of the Department 28of Corrections. The death warrant shall specify a day on which the sentence of death is to be executed 2930 and shall authorize and command the superintendent to execute the judgment of the court. The trial 31 court shall specify the date of execution of the sentence, taking into consideration the needs of the Department of Corrections. The trial court shall specify a date not less than 90 days nor more than 120 32days following the effective date of the appellate judgment.] 33

[(6)(a) Notwithstanding any other provision in this section, if the court finds that the defendant
 suffers from a mental condition that prevents the defendant from comprehending the reasons for the
 sentence of death or its implications]

(6)(a) If the court finds that a condition or circumstance exists that would render the execution of the defendant's sentence of death unconstitutionally cruel and unusual, the court may not issue a death warrant until such time as the court, after appropriate inquiries, finds that the [defendant is able to comprehend the reasons for the sentence of death and its implications.]

(b)(A) If the court does not issue a death warrant because it finds that the defendant suffers from a mental condition that prevents the defendant from comprehending the reasons for the sentence of death or its implications,] condition or circumstance no longer exists. The court shall conduct subsequent hearings on the issue on motion of the district attorney or the defendant's counsel or on the court's own motion, upon a showing [that there is substantial reason to believe that the de-

1 *fendant's*] by clear and convincing evidence that there has been a material change in the 2 condition or circumstance [has changed].

3 [(B)] (b) The court may hold a hearing under this [paragraph] subsection no more frequently 4 than once every six months.

5 [(C)] (c) The state and the defendant may obtain an independent medical, psychiatric or psy-6 chological examination of the defendant in connection with a hearing under this [paragraph] sub-7 section.

8 [(D)] (d) In a hearing under this [paragraph] subsection, the defendant has the burden of prov-9 ing by a preponderance of the evidence that [the defendant continues to suffer from a mental condition 10 that prevents the defendant from comprehending the reasons for the sentence of death or its 11 implications] a condition or circumstance exists that renders the execution of the defendant's 12 sentence of death unconstitutionally cruel and unusual.

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(e) Section 1 (3) of this 2009 Act applies to a hearing under this subsection.

(7) Except as provided in subsection (6) of this section, following the death warrant 14 15 hearing, a death warrant, signed by the trial judge of the court in which the judgment was rendered and attested by the clerk of that court, shall be drawn and delivered to the super-16 intendent of the correctional institution designated by the Director of the Department of 17 18 Corrections. The death warrant shall specify a day on which the sentence of death is to be executed and shall authorize and command the superintendent to execute the judgment of 19 20the court. The trial court shall specify the date of execution of the sentence, taking into consideration the needs of the Department of Corrections. The trial court shall specify a date 2122not less than 90 days nor more than 120 days following the effective date of the appellate 23judgment.

[(7)] (8) If for any reason a sentence of death is not executed on the date appointed in the death warrant, and the sentence of death remains in force and is not stayed under ORS 138.686 or otherwise by a court of competent jurisdiction, the court that issued the initial death warrant, on motion of the state and without further hearing, shall issue a new death warrant specifying a new date on which the sentence is to be executed. The court shall specify a date for execution of the sentence, taking into consideration the needs of the Department of Corrections. The court shall specify a date not more than 20 days after the date on which the state's motion was filed.

31 [(8)] (9) No appeal may be taken from an order issued pursuant to this section.

32 **SECTION 4.** ORS 138.060 is amended to read:

33 138.060. (1) The state may take an appeal from the circuit court to the Court of Appeals from:

34 (a) An order made prior to trial dismissing or setting aside the accusatory instrument;

35 (b) An order arresting the judgment;

36 (c) An order made prior to trial suppressing evidence;

37 (d) An order made prior to trial for the return or restoration of things seized;

38 (e) A judgment of conviction based on the sentence as provided in ORS 138.222;

39 (f) An order in a probation revocation hearing finding that a defendant who was sentenced to

40 probation under ORS 137.712 has not violated a condition of probation by committing a new crime;

41 (g) An order made after a guilty finding dismissing or setting aside the accusatory instrument;

42 (h) An order granting a new trial; or

43 (i) An order dismissing an accusatory instrument under ORS 136.130.

44 (2) Notwithstanding subsection (1) of this section, when the state chooses to appeal from an or-45 der listed in [*paragraph (a) or (b) of*] this subsection, the state shall take the appeal from the circuit

court to the Supreme Court if the defendant is charged with murder or aggravated murder. The or-1 2 ders to which this subsection applies are: 3 (a) An order made prior to trial suppressing evidence; [and] (b) An order made prior to trial dismissing or setting aside the accusatory instrument; and 4 (c) An order made prior to trial entered under section 1 (4)(b) of this 2009 Act finding the 5 defendant is not eligible for the death penalty. An appeal under this paragraph does not 6 constitute delay attributable to the state under ORS 135.747 or 135.750. 7 (3) In an appeal by the state under subsection (2) of this section, the Supreme Court shall issue 8 9 its decision no later than one year after the date of oral argument or, if the appeal is not orally argued, the date that the State Court Administrator delivers the briefs to the Supreme Court for 10 decision. Failure of the Supreme Court to issue a decision within one year is not a ground for dis-11 12 missal of the appeal. SECTION 5. ORS 138.530 is amended to read: 13 138.530. (1) Post-conviction relief pursuant to ORS 138.510 to 138.680 shall be granted by the 14 15court when one or more of the following grounds is established by the petitioner: 16(a) A substantial denial in the proceedings resulting in petitioner's conviction, or in the appellate review thereof, of petitioner's rights under the Constitution of the United States, or under the 17 18 Constitution of the State of Oregon, or both, and which denial rendered the conviction void. (b) Lack of jurisdiction of the court to impose the judgment rendered upon petitioner's con-19 20viction. (c) Sentence in excess of, or otherwise not in accordance with, the sentence authorized by law 2122for the crime of which petitioner was convicted; or unconstitutionality of such sentence. 23(d) Unconstitutionality of the statute making criminal the acts for which petitioner was convicted. 2425(e) Unconstitutionality of a sentence of death under section 1 of this 2009 Act. (2) Whenever a person petitions for relief under ORS 138.510 to 138.680, ORS 138.510 to 138.680 2627shall not be construed to deny relief where such relief would have been available prior to May 26, 1959, under the writ of habeas corpus, nor shall it be construed to affect any powers of executive 28clemency or pardon provided by law. 2930 (3) ORS 138.510 to 138.680 shall not be construed to limit the original jurisdiction of the Su-31 preme Court in habeas corpus as provided in the Constitution of this state. SECTION 6. (1) The amendments to ORS 163.150 by section 2 of this 2009 Act apply to 32sentencing proceedings conducted on or after the effective date of this 2009 Act. 33 34 (2) The amendments to ORS 137.463 by section 3 of this 2009 Act apply to death warrant hearings conducted on or after the effective date of this 2009 Act. 35

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