

House Bill 2839

Sponsored by COMMITTEE ON RULES

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**.

Allows either party entering into domestic partnership to retain surname or to change surname to surname of other party or hyphenated combination of surnames of both parties.

Declares emergency, effective on passage.

A BILL FOR AN ACT

1
2 Relating to domestic partnership; creating new provisions; amending sections 3, 4, 6 and 8, chapter
3 99, Oregon Laws 2007; and declaring an emergency.

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

5 **SECTION 1.** Section 3, chapter 99, Oregon Laws 2007, is amended to read:

6 **Sec. 3.** As used in sections 1 to 9, **chapter 99, Oregon Laws 2007** [*of this 2007 Act*]:

7 (1) "Domestic partnership" means a civil contract **described in sections 1 to 9, chapter 99,**
8 **Oregon Laws 2007**, entered into in person between two individuals of the same sex who are at least
9 18 years of age, who are otherwise capable and at least one of whom is a resident of Oregon.

10 (2) "Partner" means an individual joined in a domestic partnership.

11 **SECTION 2.** Section 4, chapter 99, Oregon Laws 2007, is amended to read:

12 **Sec. 4.** (1) [*The following domestic partnerships are*] **A domestic partnership is prohibited and**
13 **void when:**

14 (a) [*When*] Either party to the domestic partnership had a partner, wife or husband living at the
15 time of the domestic partnership **unless the partner, wife or husband was the other party to**
16 **the domestic partnership.**

17 (b) [*When*] The parties to the domestic partnership are first cousins or any nearer of kin to each
18 other, whether of the whole or half blood, whether by blood or adoption, computing by the rules of
19 the civil law. However, when the parties are first cousins by adoption only, the domestic partnership
20 is not prohibited or void.

21 (2) When either party to a domestic partnership is incapable of making the civil contract or
22 consenting to the contract for want of legal age or sufficient understanding, or when the consent
23 of either party is obtained by force or fraud, the domestic partnership is void from the time it is so
24 declared by a judgment of a court having jurisdiction of the domestic partnership.

25 **SECTION 3.** Section 6, chapter 99, Oregon Laws 2007, is amended to read:

26 **Sec. 6.** (1) Two individuals wishing to become partners in a domestic partnership may complete
27 and file a Declaration of Domestic Partnership with the county clerk.

28 (2) In accordance with the requirements of this section, the county clerk shall register the
29 Declaration of Domestic Partnership in a domestic partnership registry and return a copy of the
30 registered form and a Certificate of Registered Domestic Partnership to the partners in person or
31 at the mailing address provided by the partners.

NOTE: Matter in **boldfaced** type in an amended section is new; matter [*italic and bracketed*] is existing law to be omitted.
New sections are in **boldfaced** type.

1 (3) An individual who has filed a Declaration of Domestic Partnership may not file a new Dec-
 2 laration of Domestic Partnership or enter a marriage with someone other than the individual's reg-
 3 istered partner unless a judgment of dissolution or annulment of the most recent domestic
 4 partnership has been entered. This prohibition does not apply if the previous domestic partnership
 5 ended because one of the partners died.

6 (4) Each [*person*] **individual** signing a Declaration of Domestic Partnership consents to the ju-
 7 risdiction of the circuit courts of Oregon for the purpose of an action to obtain a judgment of dis-
 8 solution or annulment of the domestic partnership, for legal separation of the partners in the
 9 domestic partnership or for any other proceeding related to the partners' rights and obligations,
 10 even if one or both partners cease to reside in, or to maintain a domicile in, this state.
 11 Notwithstanding ORS 107.086, a petition for dissolution or annulment of the domestic partnership,
 12 for legal separation of the partners in the domestic partnership or for any other proceeding related
 13 to the partners' rights and obligations may be filed in the county in which either the petitioner or
 14 respondent last resided.

15 (5) On the Declaration of Domestic Partnership, each individual who wants to become a partner
 16 in a domestic partnership shall:

17 (a) State that the individual is at least 18 years of age and is otherwise capable to enter into
 18 a domestic partnership at the time the individual signs the form;

19 (b) State whether the individual is a resident of Oregon;

20 (c) Provide a mailing address;

21 (d) State that the individual consents to the jurisdiction of the circuit courts of Oregon for the
 22 purpose of an action to obtain a judgment of dissolution or annulment of the domestic partnership
 23 or for legal separation of the partners in the domestic partnership, or for any other proceeding re-
 24 lated to the partners' rights and obligations, even if one or both partners cease to reside in, or to
 25 maintain a domicile in, this state;

26 (e) **Indicate the individual's name after domestic partnership as provided in section 8,**
 27 **chapter 99, Oregon Laws 2007;**

28 [(e)] (f) Sign the form with a declaration that representations made on the form are true, correct
 29 and contain no material omissions of fact to the best knowledge and belief of the individual; and

30 [(f)] (g) Have a notary public acknowledge the individual's signature.

31 (6) Both partners' signatures must be affixed to one Declaration of Domestic Partnership form.
 32 Filing an intentionally and materially false Declaration of Domestic Partnership is punishable as a
 33 misdemeanor.

34 (7) The county clerk may accept any reasonable proof of an individual's age satisfactory to the
 35 clerk. The clerk may require proof of age by affidavit of some individual other than either of the
 36 parties seeking to file the Declaration of Domestic Partnership if the clerk deems it necessary in
 37 order to determine the age of the individual to the clerk's satisfaction.

38 (8) The county clerk may not register a Declaration of Domestic Partnership or return a copy
 39 of the registered form and a Certificate of Registered Domestic Partnership to the partners until the
 40 provisions of this section, section 7, **chapter 99, Oregon Laws 2007**, [*of this 2007 Act*] and all other
 41 legal requirements are complied with.

42 (9) Notwithstanding ORS 432.121 or any other provision of law, the registry of domestic part-
 43 nerships maintained by a county clerk is a public record and subject to full disclosure.

44 **SECTION 4.** Section 8, chapter 99, Oregon Laws 2007, is amended to read:

45 **Sec. 8. (1)** Upon entering into a domestic partnership, either [*individual may retain the individ-*

1 *ual's prior surname, and either individual may resume the individual's prior legal name during the*
 2 *domestic partnership.] party to the domestic partnership may retain the party's surname prior*
 3 *to the domestic partnership or change the party's surname to the surname of the other*
 4 *party or to a hyphenated combination of the surnames of both parties. If a party requests*
 5 *a surname change under this section, that party may also change the party's middle name*
 6 *to the party's surname prior to the domestic partnership. Each party must indicate on the*
 7 *Declaration of Domestic Partnership the party's name after domestic partnership.*

8 (2) The name of each party after domestic partnership as indicated on the Declaration
 9 of Domestic Partnership shall become the sole legal name of each party after domestic
 10 partnership. If a party indicates a name change other than as described in subsection (1) of
 11 this section, the party shall request approval of the court pursuant to ORS 33.410.

12 **SECTION 5.** The amendments to sections 3 and 4, chapter 99, Oregon Laws 2007, by
 13 sections 1 and 2 of this 2009 Act apply to declarations of domestic partnership entered into
 14 before, on or after the effective date of this 2009 Act.

15 **SECTION 6.** The amendments to sections 6 and 8, chapter 99, Oregon Laws 2007, by
 16 sections 3 and 4 of this 2009 Act become operative January 1, 2010.

17 **SECTION 7.** The county clerk or the State Registrar of the Center for Health Statistics
 18 may take any action before January 1, 2010, that is necessary to enable the clerk or registrar
 19 to exercise, on and after January 1, 2010, all the duties, functions and powers conferred upon
 20 the clerk or registrar by the amendments to sections 6 and 8, chapter 99, Oregon Laws 2007,
 21 by sections 3 and 4 of this 2009 Act.

22 **SECTION 8.** This 2009 Act being necessary for the immediate preservation of the public
 23 peace, health and safety, an emergency is declared to exist, and this 2009 Act takes effect
 24 on its passage.

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