

Fiscal: No Fiscal Impact

Revenue: No Revenue Impact

Action Date: 04/07/15

Action: Do Pass As Amended And Be Printed Engrossed.

Meeting Dates: 03/05, 04/07

Vote:

Yeas: 6 - Buehler, Fagan, Holvey, McLain, Rayfield, Stark

Nays: 1 - Nearman

Prepared By: Wendy Simons, Committee Administrator

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Allows State Mortuary and Cemetery Board to refuse to issue certificate of authority to operate crematorium, or suspend or revoke certificate, if board determines crematorium endangers public health and safety. Establishes that board must consider whether crematorium has met national industry standards for training and equipment.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Permitting requirements for crematoriums
- Noise and emissions associated with crematorium operations

EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT:

Makes bill permissive rather than mandatory regarding refusal by State Mortuary and Cemetery Board to issue certificates of authority to operate crematorium. Adds requirement for Board to consider whether crematorium has met national industry standards for training and equipment. Removes proposed requirement for Board to deny certificate based upon danger to public health and safety to children.

BACKGROUND:

The State Mortuary and Cemetery Board consists of 11 members appointed by the Governor and confirmed by the Senate. Members include licensed funeral service practitioners, a licensed embalmer, representatives of private and publicly-owned cemeteries, a representative from a crematorium and members of the public. The board adopts and enforces rules relating to the licensing of various professions and the issuance of certificates of authority for crematoriums, cemeteries and other facilities for the final disposition of human remains. House Bill 3056-A adds authority for the board to refuse to issue a certificate of authority to operate a crematorium if the board determines that the crematorium would endanger public health and safety. Concerns have arisen about air quality and noise resulting from crematorium operations after a funeral home near a school in Portland area received a permit to operate a crematorium.