

**Fiscal:** No Fiscal Impact

**Revenue:** No Revenue Impact

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**Action Date:** 04/09/15

**Action:** Do Pass As Amended And Be Printed Engrossed.

**Meeting Dates:** 02/05, 04/09

**Vote:**

Yeas: 7 - Buehler, Fagan, Holvey, McLain, Nearman, Rayfield, Stark

**Prepared By:** Wendy Simons, Committee Administrator

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**WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:**

Provides that individual in hospice program, or next of kin or representative of individual who has died, may terminate residential cable or telecommunications service contract without penalty. Allows provider of cable or telecommunications service to require documentation that individual is in hospice or has died. Allows Oregon Health Authority to impose civil penalty up to \$1,000 for violations. Applies to contracts entered into or renewed after effective date.

**ISSUES DISCUSSED:**

- Ability to terminate contracts of various types upon death of individual
- Whether any other types of contracts can be terminated by individual entering hospice
- Legal ability to alter existing contracts
- Types of contracts covered by bill

**EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT:**

Replaces introduced measure.

**BACKGROUND:**

Customers entering hospice programs have reported costly and time-consuming struggles with telecommunications companies when trying to terminate contracts. House Bill 2578-A allows individuals entering a hospice program, or the next of kin or representative of an individual who has died, to terminate a residential cable, satellite television or cellular or landline telephone contract without penalty.