

Fiscal: No Fiscal Impact

Revenue: No Revenue Impact

Action Date: 04/15/15

Action: Do Pass As Amended And Be Printed Engrossed.

Meeting Dates: 02/02, 04/15

Vote:

Yeas: 10 - Barreto, Barton, Doherty, Esquivel, Evans, Fagan, Holvey, Kennemer, Nosse, Weidner

Nays: 1 - Heard

Prepared By: Jan Nordlund, Committee Administrator

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Changes qualifications to practice as funeral service practitioner or embalmer, including qualifications related to reciprocity and training. Replaces references to “apprentice” with “trainee.” Declares emergency, effective on passage.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- State of economy means gaps in employment for many, making reciprocity standards difficult to meet
- Attempt to reduce barriers to obtaining occupational license
- Whether apprenticeship program would meet Bureau of Labor and Industries certification standards

EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT:

Deletes proposed requirement that applicant from another state have practiced at least one year immediately preceding application, thereby eliminating work experience requirement when applying for reciprocal license. Recognizes license issued in another state as long as it is substantially equivalent. Replaces references to “apprentice” with “trainee.”

BACKGROUND:

The Oregon Mortuary and Cemetery Board is responsible for the licensing and regulation of individuals and facilities engaged in the care, preparation, processing, transportation and final disposition of human remains. Licensees include funeral establishments, immediate disposition companies, funeral service practitioners, embalmers, apprentices, cemetery and crematory authorities, as well as preneed funeral service salespeople. The Board also monitors and administers an apprenticeship program for apprentice funeral service practitioners and embalmers.

Under current law, an individual must complete a 12-month apprenticeship before becoming a licensed funeral service practitioner or embalmer. House Bill 2471-A deletes this requirement and instead allows the Board to set, by rule, the number of completed cases and demonstrated competencies needed to satisfy the training requirements. The measure allows a funeral service practitioner or embalmer to supervise more than one trainee at the same time. The measure also allows a preceptor to supervise an unlimited number of interns enrolled in a funeral service education program; currently a preceptor is limited to three interns.

An applicant who is currently licensed in good standing in another state can receive an Oregon license if they practiced as a funeral service practitioner or embalmer for three of the five years immediately preceding their application. House Bill 2471-A allows an applicant from another state to receive an Oregon license even if they are not currently licensed in another state, provided they had been in good standing at the time they ceased practicing in the other state. House Bill 2471-A also offers the same reciprocity standards to trainees who register in Oregon .

Finally, House Bill 2471-A allows the funeral service practitioner exam and death care consultant exam to be conducted by an entity other than the Board, thereby allowing applicants to test outside of the Portland area.