

STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Senate Committee On Workforce

Fiscal: No Fiscal Impact

Revenue: No Revenue Impact

Action Date: 06/01/15

Action: Do Pass With Amendments To The A-Eng Bill. (Printed B-Eng.)

Meeting Dates: 05/11, 05/20, 06/01

Vote:

Yeas: 5 - Dembrow, Gelser, Knopp, Rosenbaum, Thatcher

Prepared By: Matthew Germer, Committee Administrator

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Allows Mortuary and Cemetery Board to establish self-inspection program to supplement biennial inspections. Allows Board to set criteria through rule by which exempt operating cemetery will not be subject to biennial inspection. Repeals statutes on magistrate-issued warrants for inspection of facilities under Board jurisdiction.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Previous collaboration with stakeholders
- Similarities and differences with other boards' procedures
- Effects of risk-based inspections

EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT:

Clarifies that the restriction on employment of persons who are members of or regulated by the board to perform inspections does not apply to self-inspections.

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, the Board is required to inspect, at least once every two years, the facilities and records of funeral establishments, cemeteries, crematoriums, immediate disposition companies and other facilities and locations where human remains are kept. The Board employs the inspectors, who are prohibited by statute from being a member of the Board or actively engaged in a practice regulated by the Board.

House Bill 2472-B allows the Board to conduct supplemental inspections and to adopt rules setting the criteria by which exempt operating cemeteries will not be subject to the mandatory biennial inspection.