

PRELIMINARY STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

CARRIER:

Senate Committee on Judiciary

REVENUE: May have revenue impact, statement not yet issued

FISCAL: May have fiscal impact, statement not yet issued

SUBSEQUENT REFERRAL TO:

Action:

Vote:

Yeas:

Nays:

Exc.:

Prepared By: Whitney Perez, Counsel

Meeting Dates: 2/4

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES: Adds secular organization to list of entities authorized to solemnize marriages. Adds celebrant or officiant of secular organization to list of persons authorized to solemnize marriages. Defines secular organization.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT: No amendment.

BACKGROUND: Oregon currently only allows marriages to be solemnized by a judicial officer, a county clerk, religious organizations or congregations, or a clergyperson of any religious congregation or organization who is authorized by the congregation or organization to solemnize marriages. There is no provision in Oregon law for a secular organization or officiant of a secular organization to solemnize marriages.

House Bill 4073 adds secular organization and a celebrant or officiant of any secular organization to the list of persons and entities authorized to solemnize marriages. For clarity and guidance, it also defines secular organization. The measure provides conforming language for all related Oregon statutes. These amendments would apply to marriages solemnized on or after the effective date of the Act.