

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:** Channa Newell, Counsel**Meeting Dates:** 2/4

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES: Revises Advance Directive form. Modifies power of attorney for healthcare for appointment of health care representative. Provides updates to appointment of health care representative portion of advance directive. Clarifies directions regarding end of life care. Creates Advance Directive Rules Adoption Committee within Oregon Health Authority to review and amend advance directive. Charges Committee with developing form providing principal with opportunity to express values and beliefs with respect to health care decisions. Allows narrative description of health care wishes. Specifies advance directive form is only form for use in Oregon. Honors forms completed by residents of other jurisdictions. Requires new advance directive forms to contain appointment of health care representative as found in statute. Requires first revision of advance directive from Committee by January 1, 2020. Changes witness requirement to allow witnessing by two adults so long as witnesses are not health care provider or health care representative. Allows notarization in lieu of witnessing.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT: Proposed (-1) amendment replace measure. Incorporates major structure of underlying bill. Makes small changes to structure and charge of Rules Adoption Committee. Clarifies language in forms. Separates appointment of health care representative from instructions for care. Provides confirming amendments.

BACKGROUND: The Oregon Advance Directive form was developed in 1993 and was the first of its kind in the nation. The advance directive allows a person to treatment preference when that person is not able to communicate their wishes and allows a person to appoint another to carry out their wishes and make health care decisions on their behalf. Since its inception, the advance directive form has not been modified in any way. A work group met through the 2015 interim to update the advance directive and look for ways to provide meaningful information on health care choices.

SB 1552 does three major things: it updates the appointment of the health care representative; it creates a committee within the Oregon Health Authority to revise the directions on care portion of the advance directive, and it loosens the witnessing requirements for creating an advance directive. The streamlining of the appointment form provides greater clarity and ease of use on the legal appointment of a health care representative. To provide consistency and certainty, this portion of the advance directive may only be changed by modifying statute. The Rules Adoption Committee may review the directions on care portion of the directive and update it as needed to provide clarity and meaningful options for describing health care treatment preferences. Additionally, the measure removes burdensome witnessing requirements and allows any two adults to witness the creation of the directive, so long as the witnesses are not the health care provider or the health care representative. Persons creating an advance directive may also utilize a notary for verification of the document.

2/4/2016 7:18:00 AM *

This summary has not been adopted or officially endorsed by action of the committee.