

Fiscal: No fiscal impact
Revenue: No Revenue Impact

Action Date: 02/02/16

Action: Do Pass.

Meeting Dates: 02/02

Vote:

Yeas: 6 - Barker, Barton, Greenlick, Krieger, Lininger, Vega Pederson

Nays: 2 - Post, Sprenger

Exc: 1 - Olson

Prepared By: Channa Newell, Counsel

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:

- Purpose of measure to allow non-religious organizations to marry couples
- Definition of secular organization
- Alternative avenues for obtaining license to marry couples

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 clergy person 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.