

**Fiscal:** No fiscal impact

**Revenue:** No Revenue Impact

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**Action Date:** 02/23/16

**Action:** Do Pass With Amendments. (Printed A-Eng.)

**Meeting Dates:** 02/17, 02/23

**Vote:**

Yeas: 4 - Gelser, Kruse, Prozanski, Rosenbaum

Nays: 1 - Thatcher

**Prepared By:** Whitney Perez, Counsel

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**WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:**

Adds secular organizations to list of entities authorized to solemnize marriages. Adds celebrant or officiant of secular organization and current member of the Legislative Assembly to list of persons authorized to solemnize marriages. Defines secular organization.

**ISSUES DISCUSSED:**

- Purpose of measure to allow non-religious organizations to solemnize marriages
- Definition of secular organization
- Amendments to marriage forms
- Does not create new legal responsibilities for those authorized to solemnize marriages

**EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT:**

Includes current members of the Legislative Assembly to list of persons authorized to solemnize marriages. Prohibits the state registrar from requiring an address for any person, organization, or congregation authorized to solemnize marriages.

**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 A adds secular organization, a celebrant or officiant of any secular organization, and current members of the Legislative Assembly 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 related Oregon statutes.