

HB 2322 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Carrier: Rep. Olson

House Committee On Judiciary

Action Date: 04/14/17

Action: Do Pass.

Vote: 10-0-1-0

Yeas: 10 - Barker, Gorsek, Greenlick, Lininger, Olson, Post, Sanchez, Stark, Vial, Williamson

Exc: 1 - Sprenger

Fiscal: Has minimal fiscal impact

Revenue: No revenue impact

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WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Changes title "State Medical Examiner" to "Chief Medical Examiner" and title "Deputy Medical Examiner" to "Medical-Legal Death Investigator."

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Effort to standardize titles
- Reducing potential for confusion

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

No amendment.

BACKGROUND:

Currently, Oregon is the only state that uses the title "State Medical Examiner" to describe the individual overseeing suspicious death investigations. Instead, most states use the term "Chief Medical Examiner." There is also concern that the term "deputy medical examiner" is confusing because it implies that the deputy medical examiner is a physician. Many deputy medical examiners are actually local law enforcement officers who serve as deputy medical examiners on a part-time basis.

House Bill 2322 changes the title "State Medical Examiner" to "Chief Medical Examiner" to bring Oregon in line with other states, and changes the title "Deputy Medical Examiner" to "Medical-Legal Death Investigator" to address any confusion.