

HB 2113 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Carrier: Sen. Prozanski, Sen.
Steiner Hayward

Senate Committee On Judiciary

Action Date: 05/03/17
Action: Do pass.
Vote: 3-2-0-0
Yeas: 3 - Dembrow, Manning Jr, Prozanski
Nays: 2 - Linthicum, Thatcher
Fiscal: No fiscal impact
Revenue: No revenue impact
Prepared By: Whitney Perez, 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:

- Various organizations that fall within definition of secular organization
- Definition for secular organization comes from the 7th circuit opinion in *Center for Inquiry, Inc. v. Marion Circuit Court Clerk*
- History of the measure

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

No amendment.

BACKGROUND:

Oregon currently allows marriages to be solemnized by a judicial officer, county clerk, religious organization or congregation, or clergy person authorized by a religious congregation or organization to solemnize marriages. There is no provision currently in Oregon law for a secular organization or officiant of a secular organization to solemnize marriages.

House Bill 2113 adds secular organizations and a celebrant or officiant of any secular organization to the list of persons and entities authorized to solemnize marriages. It also defines secular organization. Finally, the measure provides conforming language for related Oregon statutes.