

HB 2673 A STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Carrier: Sen. Roblan, Sen. Prozanski

Senate Committee On Judiciary

Action Date: 05/04/17
Action: Do pass the A-Eng bill.
Vote: 4-1-0-0
Yeas: 4 - Dembrow, Manning Jr, Prozanski, Thatcher
Nays: 1 - Linthicum
Fiscal: Has minimal fiscal impact
Revenue: No revenue impact
Prepared By: Whitney Perez, Counsel

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Provides for alternative process for persons to change name and gender on a vital record. Eliminates requirement for courts to publicly post court orders on name and gender changes. Operative January 1, 2018. Takes effect on 91st day following adjournment sine die.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- 45 percent of transgender persons suffer from verbal harassment
- Possibility to add sexual assault survivors to this measure and fiscal impact concerns
- Ability for creditors to locate debtors following name change using the debtor's address or social security number

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

No amendment.

BACKGROUND:

To update a birth certificate, a transgender person must currently go through a court to request a legal name or gender marker amendment and then take the court order to the Oregon Health Authority's Vital Records Department. The court process can be inconsistent from county to county and can be costly and difficult to navigate.

House Bill 2673-A creates a centralized process to change a name and gender marker on a birth certificate and eliminates public posting requirements. HB 2673-A allows the State Registrar of the Center for Health Statistics to amend or correct a vital record upon receipt of a certified court order or upon request from an applicant that includes sufficient documentation and a signed statement from the applicant that the purpose of the request is to affirm the applicant's gender identity. An applicant may only use this latter process once.