

**HB 2322 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY**

**Carrier:** Sen. Dembrow

**Senate Committee On Judiciary**

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**Action Date:** 05/11/17

**Action:** Do pass.

**Vote:** 4-1-0-0

**Yeas:** 4 - Dembrow, Linthicum, Manning Jr, Prozanski

**Nays:** 1 - Thatcher

**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:**

- Background on current system for death investigations
- Need for job title to reflect position duties
- Concerns about about title change for deputy medical examiners

**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. It also changes the title "Deputy Medical Examiner" to "Medical-Legal Death Investigator" to address any confusion.