

HB 4019 -1 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

House Committee On Health Care

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Meeting Dates: 2/5

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Designates the second week in April as Organ, Eye and Tissue Donor Appreciation week. Establishes the Oregon Gifts of Life Award for families of organ donors. Authorizes organ procurement organizations to nominate and select individuals to receive the award. Grants the office of the Governor the ability to present the award to families. Declares emergency, effective on passage.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

-1 Grants the office of the Governor discretion on presenting the award. Requires organ procurement organizations to nominate eligible individuals. Removes requirement to release the name of the organ donor for printing award certificate and for ceremonial use.

REVENUE: No revenue impact.

FISCAL: Has minimal fiscal impact.

BACKGROUND:

In the United States in 2017, 116,000 individuals were on the national transplant waiting list with another person added to the list every 10 minutes (U.S. Government Information on Organ Donation and Transplantation). Nationally, approximately 54 percent of adults have signed up as potential donors. However, the number of individuals on the waiting list annually grows faster than the number of donors and transplants. In 2015, 75 percent of Oregon adults age 18 and older (2,345,325 adults) registered on the National Registry as organ, eye and tissue donors. National and state education and awareness initiatives are designed to increase the number of registered donors to enable more transplants.

Donate Life Northwest states that an individual 15 years of age or older can register as a donor at the Oregon Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) and indicate that upon their death, they wish to donate organs or tissues deemed viable for the specific purpose of life-saving organ or life-enhancing tissue transplants. The DMV will place a “D” or a heart on their driver’s license, permit, or identification card. Individuals can also directly register as donors online or with a paper form and may indicate any specific organs or tissues they do not want to donate, which will be documented in the confidential Donor Registry.

House Bill 4019 creates a donor appreciation week and establishes an annual award for families of organ donors in Oregon.