

HB 4073 -1 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

House Committee On Rules

Prepared By: Adam Crawford, LPRO Analyst

Meeting Dates: 2/8

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Allows the State Mortuary and Cemetery Board to grant a cemetery without a valid license a temporary operating permit if a death necessitating interment has occurred and there is an existing contract to which the cemetery is a party. Repeals the measure on January 2, 2020. Declares an emergency, and is effective on passage.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

-1 Removes the sunset date.

BACKGROUND:

Some people purchase cemetery plots and funeral arrangements years and occasionally decades prior to their actual deaths. This becomes an issue if the cemetery with whom they contracted is no longer licensed for whatever reason. If a cemetery is not licensed, the Oregon State Mortuary and Cemetery Board prohibits interment to occur at that cemetery, potentially forcing a person with a valid and paid contract to find other funeral arrangements.

To address this issue, the Legislative Assembly in 2015 passed House Bill 3242 providing the same powers to the State Mortuary and Cemetery Board as that of House Bill 4073. House Bill 3242 became effective on January 1, 2016 and sunsetted on January 1, 2018. During the two years the bill was in effect, the State Mortuary and Cemetery Board provided 145 temporary permits.

House Bill 4073 would allow the State Mortuary and Cemetery Board to grant a cemetery without a valid license a temporary operating permit if a death necessitating interment has occurred and there is an existing contract to which the cemetery is a party until January 2, 2020.