

SB 227 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Senate Committee On Business and General Government

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Meeting Dates: 2/12, 2/26

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Authorizes cemetery authority or person with right to control disposition of body to temporarily store or reinter human remains completely or partially dislodged by natural disaster. Requires cemetery authority to make reasonable attempt to identify remains and notify person with right to control disposition of remains before reinterment or storage of human remains. Provides that cemetery and person with right to control disposition of remains are not liable for specified violations when acting to store or reinter human remains dislodged by natural disaster. Declares emergency, effective on passage.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Lack of authority to store or reinter human remains dislodged by natural disaster
- History of landslides on or near Oregon cemeteries

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

No amendment.

BACKGROUND:

Natural disasters like flooding and landslides can expose and dislodge human remains. Senate Bill 227 allows the cemetery authority, after making a reasonable attempt to notify the appropriate parties, to temporarily store and reinter human remains dislodged by a natural disaster. The measure also allows, in the event of a natural disaster, the person with the right to control the disposition of the body to personally undertake the temporary storage or reinterment.