

HB 2585 A -A7 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Senate Committee On Judiciary

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Meeting Dates: 4/22, 5/20

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Requires Chief Medical Examiner to complete and file a report of death for a person presumed dead and missing in the wilderness. Requires report within 45 days of receiving report from Search and Rescue Coordinator, in conjunction with a county sheriff.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

-A7 Establishes process for determining that person missing in wilderness or forested environment is deceased. Specifies that Search and Rescue Coordinator (SRC) and county sheriff shall send documentation of investigation into person missing in wilderness or forested environment and believe deceased to the Chief Medical Officer (CMO). Requires CMO to evaluate credibility of investigation and determination that person is deceased within seven days of receiving report and either file a report of death within 45 days or report back to sheriff with basis for determination and list of any missing information that would aid in evaluation. Requires reasonable effort by sheriff to provide missing information to CMO. Bases determination on reasonable suspicion standard.

BACKGROUND:

The Chief Medical Examiner may complete and file a report of death for a person whose body is not found after a reasonable and thorough investigation. Additionally, within 45 days of receiving information of a person lost at sea and presumed dead, the Chief Medical Examiner is required to determine if the information is credible, and if it is, to complete and file a report of death. If it is not credible, the Chief Medical Examiner may continue with the death investigation.

House Bill 2585 A provides a process for the Chief Medical Examiner to complete and file a report of death for a person presumed dead in the wilderness. The measure requires the Chief Medical Examiner to issue the report within 45 days of receiving a report from the Search and Rescue Coordinator, in conjunction with a county sheriff, that the person is missing in the wilderness and presumed dead.