



Open Government Impact Statement

83rd Oregon Legislative Assembly
2026 Regular Session

Measure: SB 1550 - A

Only impacts on Original or Engrossed
Versions are Considered Official

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SUMMARY

Digest: This Act changes laws related to what government must do after a person dies in some situations. (Flesch Readability Score: 60.1).

Directs specified investigators of deaths of decedents, prior to making any findings as to the cause or manner of death where the decedent is suspected to have died from suicide, accident or other undetermined cause, to review documented evidence of abuse and interview family members of the decedent if the decedent has a history as a victim of domestic violence or child abuse and certain conditions exist.

Directs the law enforcement officer or district medical examiner to request further post-mortem examination of the decedent if a reasonable basis exists to suspect the death is a homicide due to domestic violence or child abuse. Directs the Chief Medical Examiner to engage in collaborative consultation regarding appropriate actions to take. Prohibits the release of the body of the decedent until the consultation has occurred and recommended actions have been completed. Authorizes appropriate post-mortem assessments.

Provides that certain individuals may examine and obtain copies of evidence generated during an autopsy or investigation of death.

Requires law enforcement to provide notice of rights to certain members of the decedent's family upon opening an investigation of a death that is suspected to have been caused by suicide or occurred under suspicious circumstances.

OPEN GOVERNMENT IMPACT

Legislative Counsel has not adopted standards for drafting measures that establish exemptions from disclosure of public records.

This measure states that despite public records laws prohibiting disclosure, a parent, spouse, sibling, child or personal representative of a deceased person, in certain circumstances, may have access to certain records of the deceased person that are part of an autopsy or death investigation.

If these public records were not subject to disclosure in these instances, a parent, spouse, sibling, child or personal representative of a deceased person may not be able to access certain records that are part of an autopsy or death investigation including photographs, body camera video and evidentiary records.