



Oregon

Kate Brown, Governor

Department of State Police

Headquarters

3565 Trelstad Ave SE

Salem, OR 97317-9614

(503) 378-3720

General Fax: (503) 363-5475

V/TTY: (503) 585-1452

March 18, 2019



Honorable Jennifer Williamson, Chair
House Committee on Judiciary
Oregon State Legislature

RE: HB 2585

Chair Williamson and Members of the Committee:

The Oregon State Police, Medical Examiner Division, has greatly appreciated the opportunity to collaborate with Representative McKeown's office throughout the development of HB 2585. Under ORS 146.045, the Chief Medical Examiner is authorized to file a report of death in the following circumstances:

- *After a reasonable and thorough investigation for a person whose body is not found.*
- *Within 45 days of receipt of information that a person is missing at sea and presumed dead, if the information provided is determined to be credible.*

Death certificates are legal documents which allow families to collect on life insurance, close bank accounts, sell property, etc. Unfortunately, we have seen here in Oregon as well as across the country, examples of fraud surrounding false claims of a person's death and using an issued death certificate to obtain financial gain. This underscores the importance of proper oversight and review of information surrounding a person missing and presumed dead.

Although we are neutral on HB 2585, we feel the proposed amendments to ORS 146.045(5) appropriately retain the Chief Medical Examiner's ability to determine the credibility of information relating to a person missing and presumed dead.

Respectfully,

David J. Anderson

Major - Police Services Bureau

