

# House Bill 2585

Sponsored by Representatives MCKEOWN, SMITH DB, Senators HEARD, ROBLAN; Representatives GOMBERG, HOLVEY, WILDE, WITT, Senator JOHNSON (at the request of former Representative Deborah Boone) (Pre-session filed.)

## SUMMARY

The following summary is not prepared by the sponsors of the measure and is not a part of the body thereof subject to consideration by the Legislative Assembly. It is an editor's brief statement of the essential features of the measure **as introduced**.

Allows Chief Medical Examiner to complete and file report of death for person missing in wilderness and presumed dead.

## A BILL FOR AN ACT

1  
2 Relating to reports of death; amending ORS 146.045.

3 **Be It Enacted by the People of the State of Oregon:**

4 **SECTION 1.** ORS 146.045 is amended to read:

5 146.045. (1) After consultation with the State Medical Examiner Advisory Board, the Chief  
6 Medical Examiner shall appoint each Deputy State Medical Examiner.

7 (2) The Chief Medical Examiner shall:

8 (a) Appoint and discharge each district medical examiner as provided by ORS 146.065 (2).

9 (b) Designate those pathologists authorized to perform autopsies under ORS 146.117 (2).

10 (c) Approve those laboratories authorized to perform the analyses required under ORS 146.113  
11 (2).

12 (3) The Chief Medical Examiner may:

13 (a) Assume control of a death investigation in cooperation with the district attorney.

14 (b) Order an autopsy in a death requiring investigation.

15 (c) Certify the cause and manner of a death requiring investigation.

16 (d) Amend a previously completed report on a death requiring investigation.

17 (e) Order a body exhumed in a death requiring investigation.

18 (f) Designate a Deputy State Medical Examiner as Acting Chief Medical Examiner.

19 (g) After a reasonable and thorough investigation, complete and file a report of death for a  
20 person whose body is not found.

21 (4) Distribution of moneys from the Chief Medical Examiner's budget for partial reimbursement  
22 of each county's autopsy expenditures shall be made subject to approval of the Chief Medical Ex-  
23 aminer.

24 (5) Within 45 days of receipt of information that a person is missing at sea **or in the wilderness**  
25 and presumed dead, the Chief Medical Examiner shall determine whether the information is credible  
26 and, if so, complete and file a report of death for the person presumed dead. If the information is  
27 determined not to be credible, the Chief Medical Examiner may continue the death investigation.

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**NOTE:** Matter in **boldfaced** type in an amended section is new; matter [*italic and bracketed*] is existing law to be omitted. New sections are in **boldfaced** type.