

**HB 2123 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY**

**House Committee On Business and Labor**

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**Prepared By:** Jan Nordlund, LPRO Analyst

**Meeting Dates:** 1/27

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**WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:**

Creates a rolling definition of "historic" cemetery as burial place containing remains of one or more persons who died more than 75 years before current date. Declares emergency, effective on passage.

**ISSUES DISCUSSED:**

**EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:**

No amendment.

**BACKGROUND:**

There are designated historic cemeteries in all 36 Oregon counties. Under current law, a historic cemetery is one that contains the remains of a person who died before February 14, 1909. This date was set in 1999, when the Legislative Assembly moved it back from the prior date of January 1, 1940. The Commission on Historic Cemeteries, among other duties, is responsible for assisting in the coordination of the restoration, renovation, and maintenance of historic cemeteries and for recommending to the State Parks and Recreation Director projects and funding to maintain and improve these cemeteries. The historic cemeteries program provides resource, including grants, to people and organizations that care for historic cemeteries.

House Bill 2123 allows the definition of "historic cemetery" to change with each passing year by defining it as a burial place containing remains of a person who died at least 75 years before the current date.