

HB 2506 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

House Committee On Health Care

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Sub-Referral To: Joint Committee On Ways and Means

Meeting Dates: 3/4

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Establishes the Organ Donor Registry and Public Awareness Fund. Funds are to be used to conduct statewide outreach and public education related to anatomical gifts. Allows Department of Transportation to accept donations for the Fund from individuals that apply for or renew a driver permit, driver license, or identification card.

REVENUE: statement issued - no revenue impact.

FISCAL: statement issued.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

No amendment.

BACKGROUND:

In the United States in 2017, 116,000 individuals were on the national transplant waiting list with another person added to the list every 10 minutes (U.S. Government Information on Organ Donation and Transplantation). Nationally, approximately 54 percent of adults have signed up as potential donors. However, the number of individuals on the waiting list annually grows faster than the number of donors and transplants. In 2015, 75 percent of Oregon adults age 18 and older (2,345,325 adults) registered on the National Registry as organ, eye and tissue donors. National and state education and awareness initiatives are designed to increase the number of registered donors to enable more transplants.¹

Donate Life Northwest states that individuals 15 years of age or older can register as donors at the Oregon Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) and indicate that upon their death, they wish to donate organs or tissues deemed viable for the specific purpose of life-saving organ or life-enhancing tissue transplants. The DMV will place a “D” or a heart on the individual’s driver license, permit, or identification card. Individuals can also directly register as donors online or with a paper form and may indicate any specific organs or tissues they do not want to donate, which will be documented in the confidential Donor Registry. In 2018, House Bill 4019 passed creating a donor appreciation week and establishing an annual award for families of organ donors in Oregon.

House Bill 2506 creates the Organ Donor Registry to promote statewide public awareness of organ donation. The Fund is to be managed by the Oregon Department of Transportation.