

**HB 2420 A STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY**

**Carrier:** Rep. Owens

**House Committee On Behavioral Health and Health Care**

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**Action Date:** 03/27/23

**Action:** Do pass with amendments. (Printed A-Eng.)

**Vote:** 9-0-2-0

**Yeas:** 9 - Bowman, Conrad, Diehl, Goodwin, Morgan, Nelson, Nosse, Pham H, Tran

**Exc:** 2 - Dexter, Javadi

**Fiscal:** Has minimal fiscal impact

**Revenue:** No revenue impact

**Prepared By:** Brian Nieubuurt, LPRO Analyst

**Meeting Dates:** 3/7, 3/27

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**WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:**

Requires Oregon Health Authority (OHA) to designate a work group comprised of representatives of county vital records offices, funeral directors, other partners and community members to propose options for equitable access to birth and death certificates throughout the state and equitable fee revenue to maintain and improve the state and county vital records system. Requires OHA report to Legislative Assembly on options proposed by work group by January 1, 2025. Sunsets work group on January 2, 2025. Declares emergency, effective on passage.

**ISSUES DISCUSSED:**

- Challenges raised by current limitations on death certificate issuance
- Impact to Center for Health Statistics by shifting vital record issuance permissibility
- Delays in vital records issuance

**EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:**

Replaces the measure.

**BACKGROUND:**

Oregon law requires all vital events such as birth, marriage, divorce, and death to be permanently recorded and registered. Oregon's vital records office, known as the Center for Health Statistics (CHS) is responsible for issuing certified copies of vital records. The CHS is housed in the Public Health Division of the Oregon Health Authority (OHA). Current law limits county registrars' ability to issue and sell certified copies of records of live birth or deaths to those occurring in the county within the last six months.

House Bill 2420 A requires the Oregon Health Authority to designate a work group to propose options for equitable access to birth and death certificates throughout the state and equitable fee revenue to maintain and improve the state and county vital records system and deliver a report to the Legislative Assembly by January 1, 2025.