

HB 2519 A STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY**Carrier:** Rep. Marsh**House Committee On Judiciary****Action Date:** 04/03/23**Action:** Do pass with amendments. (Printed A-Eng.)**Vote:** 9-0-1-0**Yeas:** 9 - Andersen, Bynum, Chaichi, Conrad, Kropf, Lewis, Morgan, Reynolds, Wallan**Exc:** 1 - Tran**Fiscal:** Has minimal fiscal impact**Revenue:** Has minimal revenue impact**Prepared By:** Lucy Ohlsen, LPRO Analyst**Meeting Dates:** 2/13, 4/3**WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:**

Prohibits individuals from displaying human remains for profit, with exemptions for legitimate ceremonial and educational purposes. Specifies a person must knowingly accept payment for displaying human remains to the public to be subject to prohibition. Creates civil action for injunctive relief, damages or other appropriate relief against any person who unlawfully accepts payment or other consideration for displaying human remains to the public. Provides for recovery of attorney fees in specified circumstances. Applies to conduct occurring after effective date. Declares emergency, effective on passage.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Example of 2021 Portland event
- Existing law that may be applicable
- Need for ability to obtain injunctive relief

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

Clarifies a person must knowingly accept payment for displaying human remains to the public to be subject to prohibition. Deletes sections creating misdemeanor and civil penalty. Creates civil action for injunctive relief, damages or other appropriate relief against any person who unlawfully accepts payment or other consideration for displaying human remains to the public. Provides for recovery of attorney fees in specified circumstances. Removes language making unlawful display of human remains an unclassified misdemeanor. Applies to conduct occurring after effective date. Declares emergency, effective on passage.

BACKGROUND:

In 2021, a private company hosted a for-profit display of the dissection of a human body in downtown Portland. The body was donated by a World War II veteran, believing he was donating his body to science for medical research. After the event, Multnomah County adopted a ban prohibiting private companies from conducting this kind of for-profit event. Jurisdictions in Washington, California, and Hawaii have passed similar legislation.

House Bill 2519 A prohibits a person from accepting payment or other consideration in exchange for displaying human remains to the public, with specified exemptions for legitimate ceremonial and educational purposes. The measure creates a civil action that may be filed against any person who accepts payment or consideration for displaying human remains to the public, and provides that injunctive relief, damages, or other appropriate relief may be granted.