

B-Engrossed
House Bill 4003

Ordered by the Senate February 23
Including House Amendments dated February 13 and Senate Amendments
dated February 23

Sponsored by Representative WALLAN; Representatives BYNUM, GOODWIN, GRAYBER, HIEB, LEWIS, NOSSE,
OWENS, RESCHKE (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. The statement includes a measure digest written in compliance with applicable readability standards.

Digest: The Act tells a state agency to study the shortage of MEs in this state. The Act tells the agency to provide the results of the study to the legislature by October 1, 2024. The Act goes into effect when the Governor signs it. (Flesch Readability Score: 65.0).

Directs the Department of State Police to study the causes of and ways to address the medical examiner shortage, and to provide the results of the study to the appropriate interim committees of the Legislative Assembly no later than October 1, 2024.

Sunset on January 2, 2025.

Declares an emergency, effective on passage.

A BILL FOR AN ACT

1
2 Relating to medical examiners; and declaring an emergency.

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

4 **SECTION 1. (1) The Department of State Police shall study the causes of and ways to**
5 **address the shortage of medical examiners within this state. The results of the study must**
6 **include:**

7 (a) **A plan to strengthen, supplement and make operational the recommendations from**
8 **the Medical Examiner Improvement in Oregon work group;**

9 (b) **A determination of how to ensure that counties are provided with stabilized and**
10 **sustainable funding for medical examiner services that ORS chapter 146 requires counties**
11 **to provide;**

12 (c) **An analysis of the development of new forensic pathology slots through the Oregon**
13 **Health and Science University;**

14 (d) **A determination of how to ensure that Oregon is following best national and regional**
15 **practices in a timely manner, including an analysis of laws and legislation from other states;**

16 (e) **An analysis of the potential utilization of the Conrad 30 waiver program for J-1 for-**
17 **ign medical graduates; and**

18 (f) **A determination of how to best meet regional medical examiner needs across this**
19 **state.**

20 (2) **In conducting the study described in subsection (1) of this section, the department:**

21 (a) **Shall consult with all counties to ensure that any plan developed pursuant to the**
22 **study does not interfere with a well-functioning medical examiner program that currently**
23 **exists within any county;**

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.

1 **(b) Shall consult with district attorneys, public health providers, the Oregon Association**
2 **Chiefs of Police, the Oregon State Sheriffs' Association, medical-legal death investigators,**
3 **national medical examiner accrediting organizations and federally recognized tribal govern-**
4 **ments within this state and at least one member of the public who has been affected by the**
5 **medical examiner shortage;**

6 **(c) Shall consult with the Oregon Health Authority concerning the potential utilization**
7 **of the Conrad 30 waiver program and any other part of the study the department determines**
8 **to be appropriate; and**

9 **(d) Shall consult with members of the Legislative Assembly serving on the interim com-**
10 **mittees of the Legislative Assembly related to the judiciary and health care and members**
11 **of the Legislative Assembly serving on the interim subcommittee of the Joint Committee on**
12 **Ways and Means related to public safety.**

13 **(3) No later than October 1, 2024, the department shall provide the results of the study,**
14 **including any recommended legislative changes, in a report to the appropriate interim com-**
15 **mittees of the Legislative Assembly, in the manner provided under ORS 192.245.**

16 **SECTION 2.** **Section 1 of this 2024 Act is repealed on January 2, 2025.**

17 **SECTION 3.** **This 2024 Act being necessary for the immediate preservation of the public**
18 **peace, health and safety, an emergency is declared to exist, and this 2024 Act takes effect**
19 **on its passage.**

20