

HB 3127 -1 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

House Committee On Behavioral Health and Health Care

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Meeting Dates: 1/28, 2/20

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

The measure would require medical certifiers and medical examiners to complete death certificates using the state electronic reporting system.

Fiscal impact: Has minimal fiscal impact

Revenue impact: No revenue impact

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Time required to complete death registrations
- Reasons for continued use of paper certificates
- Home burials

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

-1

- Clarifies reporting procedures

BACKGROUND:

A death certificate is an essential document that allows families to access financial and personal accounts after the death of a loved one. Delays in obtaining the certificate can complicate the process of managing the deceased's affairs.

The Oregon Vital Events Registration System (OVERS) was piloted in 2006 and offers a secure, web-based platform for the creation and distribution of vital records. Appropriately credentialed staff may request access to OVERS in order to sign vital records, including birth and death certificates, electronically. Medical staff are not currently required to opt into the OVERS system and may choose paper certificates which require physical signatures.

House Bill 2420 ([2023](#)) directed the Oregon Health Authority (OHA) to convene a work group focused on identifying recommendations to ensure equitable access to birth and death records for all Oregonians while supporting equitable revenue in order to maintain and improve state and county vital records systems. The HB 2420 work group published its final recommendations in a [2024 Report](#) which included the recommendation that death certificates be required to be completed in OVERS, with exceptions in certain situations, such as home burials.

House Bill 3127 would require medical certifiers and medical examiners to complete death certificates using the state electronic reporting system.