SB 424 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Senate Committee On Judiciary

Prepared By:Tisha Pascone, LPRO AnalystSub-Referral To:Joint Committee On Ways and MeansMeeting Dates:3/10

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

The measure appropriates funding, in an amount to be determined, to the Oregon Health Authority for an electronic filing system for records or reports required by the Oregon Death with Dignity Act. Declares an emergency, effective July 1, 2025.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

No amendment.

BACKGROUND:

Oregon enacted its Death with Dignity Act in 1997 to allow terminally ill patients who meet certain criteria to end their lives through voluntary self-administration of a lethal dose of a medication prescribed by a physician for that purpose. A physician must document certain information in the medical record, and health care providers must file medication dispensing records with the Oregon Health Authority (OHA). OHA reviews a sample of medical records, reports annually with statistical information, and refers any instances of noncompliance with the Act to the applicable licensing authority. Other proposed legislation, Senate Bill 1003 (2025), Sect. 15, would require OHA to permit medical providers to submit records electronically. Current rules permit the submission of records by mail, facsimile, or secure electronic mail. <u>OAR 333-009-0010</u>.