

HB 3729 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY
Senate Committee On Energy and Environment

Carrier: Sen. Sollman

Action Date: 05/12/25

Action: Do pass.

Vote: 5-0-0-0

Yeas: 5 - Golden, Pham, Robinson, Smith DB, Sollman

Fiscal: Has minimal fiscal impact

Revenue: No revenue impact

Prepared By: Beth Reiley, LPRO Analyst

Meeting Dates: 5/7, 5/12

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

The measure prohibits the Department of Environmental Quality, the Environmental Quality Commission, or a regional air quality control authority from requiring a person to operate a crematory incinerator at a temperature greater than 1,600 degrees Fahrenheit. It takes effect on the 91st day following adjournment sine die.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Effects of incinerating at a lower temperature
- Consistency with other states
- Process for the Environmental Quality Commission to change existing rules

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

No amendment.

BACKGROUND:

Oregon's cremation laws are governed by the Department of Environmental Quality's administrative rules (Oregon Administrative Rule (OAR) Chapter 340, Division 230). These rules set emissions standards for crematories and specify what can be done with cremated remains. Cemetery authorities, crematory operators, and licensed funeral service practitioners must comply with these regulations. Under current OARs, crematory incinerators installed on or after March 13, 1993, must operate at a temperature equal or greater than 1,800 degrees Fahrenheit and those installed prior to March 13, 1993, the operation temperature must be equal or greater than 1,600 degrees Fahrenheit (OAR 340-230-0210).