

Senate Bill 536

Sponsored by Senator PATTERSON (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 **as introduced**. The statement includes a measure digest written in compliance with applicable readability standards.

Digest: The Act lets two more types of health care practitioners be medical examiners. (Flesch Readability Score: 63.6).

Provides that a licensed physician associate or nurse practitioner may be a medical examiner. Includes a licensure requirement for a physician who serves as a medical examiner.

A BILL FOR AN ACT

1
2 Relating to medical examiners; amending ORS 146.003.

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

4 **SECTION 1.** ORS 146.003 is amended to read:

5 146.003. As used in ORS 146.003 to 146.189 and 146.710 to 146.992, unless the context requires
6 otherwise:

7 (1) "Approved laboratory" means a laboratory approved by the Chief Medical Examiner as
8 competent to perform the blood sample analysis required by ORS 146.113 (2).

9 (2) "Assistant district medical examiner" means a physician **licensed under ORS chapter 677,**
10 **physician associate licensed under ORS 677.505 to 677.525 or nurse practitioner licensed under**
11 **ORS 678.375 to 678.390** appointed by the district medical examiner to investigate and certify deaths
12 within a county or district.

13 (3) "Cause of death" means the primary or basic disease process or injury ending life.

14 (4) "Death requiring investigation" means the death of a person occurring in any one of the
15 circumstances set forth in ORS 146.090.

16 (5) "District medical examiner" means a physician **licensed under ORS chapter 677, physician**
17 **associate licensed under ORS 677.505 to 677.525 or nurse practitioner licensed under ORS**
18 **678.375 to 678.390** appointed by the Chief Medical Examiner to investigate and certify deaths within
19 a county or district, including a Deputy State Medical Examiner.

20 (6) "Law enforcement agency" means a county sheriff's office, municipal police department, po-
21 lice department established by a university under ORS 352.121 or 353.125 and the Oregon State Po-
22 lice.

23 (7) "Legal intervention" includes an execution pursuant to ORS 137.463, 137.467 and 137.473 and
24 other legal use of force resulting in death.

25 (8) "Manner of death" means the designation of the probable mode of production of the cause
26 of death, including natural, accidental, suicidal, homicidal, legal intervention or undetermined.

27 (9) "Medical examiner" means a physician **licensed under ORS chapter 677, physician asso-**
28 **ciate licensed under ORS 677.505 to 677.525 or nurse practitioner licensed under ORS 678.375**
29 **to 678.390** appointed as provided by ORS 146.003 to 146.189 to investigate and certify the cause and
30 manner of deaths requiring investigation, including the Chief Medical Examiner.

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 (10) “Medical-legal death investigator” means a person appointed by the district medical exam-
2 iner to assist in the investigation of deaths within a county.

3 (11) “Pathologist” means a physician holding a current license to practice medicine and surgery
4 and who is eligible for certification by the American Board of Pathology, **or its successor organ-**
5 **ization.**

6 (12) “Unidentified human remains” does not include human remains that are unidentified human
7 remains that are part of an archaeological site or suspected of being Native American and covered
8 under ORS chapters 97 and 390 and ORS 358.905 to 358.961.

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