

HB 4073 A STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Carrier: Rep. Sprenger

House Committee On Rules

Action Date: 02/13/18

Action: Do pass with amendments. (Printed A-Eng.)

Vote: 8-0-1-0

Yeas: 8 - Barreto, Kennemer, McLane, Nosse, Rayfield, Smith Warner, Williamson, Wilson

Exc: 1 - Holvey

Fiscal: No fiscal impact

Revenue: No revenue impact

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WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Allows the State Mortuary and Cemetery Board to grant a cemetery without a valid license a temporary operating permit if a death necessitating interment has occurred and there is an existing contract to which the cemetery is a party. Declares an emergency, effective on passage.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Program beginning with House Bill 3242 (2015)
- Needs of smaller and rural cemeteries
- Number of times these licenses have been issued without incident

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

Removes the sunset date.

BACKGROUND:

Some people purchase cemetery plots and funeral arrangements years, and occasionally decades, prior to their death. This becomes an issue if the cemetery with which they contracted is no longer licensed. If a cemetery is not licensed, the Oregon State Mortuary and Cemetery Board prohibits interment to occur at that cemetery, potentially forcing a person with a valid and paid contract to find other funeral arrangements.

To address this issue, the 2015 Legislative Assembly passed House Bill 3242 providing the same powers to the State Mortuary and Cemetery Board as those included in House Bill 4073. House Bill 3242 (2015) became effective on January 1, 2016, and sunsetted on January 1, 2018. During the two years the bill was in effect, the State Mortuary and Cemetery Board provided 145 temporary permits.

House Bill 4073 A allows the State Mortuary and Cemetery Board to grant a cemetery without a valid license a temporary operating permit if a death necessitating interment has occurred and there is an existing contract to which the cemetery is a party.