

CHAPTER 13

AN ACT

HB 4019

Relating to organ donations; and declaring an emergency.

Whereas more than 117,000 people in the United States are in need of a lifesaving organ transplant, and another person is added to the waiting list every 10 minutes; and

Whereas 22 Americans die each day while waiting for a lifesaving organ transplant; and

Whereas a single organ, eye or tissue donor can save and heal more than 75 individuals; and

Whereas 83 organ donors from Oregon gave more than 250 transplanted organs in 2016; and

Whereas 2,291 tissue and cornea donations from Oregon were distributed to 80,353 people in 2016; and

Whereas one in four persons who died and were eligible to be a donor could have donated their corneas; and

Whereas cancer victims and some individuals who are blind can donate their corneas when they die; and

Whereas a transplant can be used to treat a burn victim, save the life of a newborn with a congenital heart defect or replace tumorous bones; and

Whereas the need for organ, eye and tissue transplants far exceeds donations and does not discriminate by any demographic characteristic or ideological conviction; and

Whereas public education about organ, eye and tissue donations is crucial because more than 800 people in Oregon await an organ transplant, and hundreds more await a tissue or cornea transplant; and

Whereas the State of Oregon, through the Department of Transportation, has a decades-long relationship with designated organ procurement organizations in which the department invites Oregonians to join the anatomical donor registry and have a "D" placed on their driver license or identification card; and

Whereas the Legislative Assembly encourages partnership between the Department of Transportation and organ procurement organizations to educate the public about the need for participation in the donor registry, resulting in more lives saved, sight given and lives improved; and

Whereas the Legislative Assembly recognizes and appreciates the gifts of life from those Oregonians who choose to donate after their death; now, therefore,

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

SECTION 1. The second week of April of each year is designated as Organ, Eye and Tissue Donor Appreciation Week.

SECTION 2. (1) As used in this section:

(a) "Organ donor" means an individual whose organ, eye or tissue is the subject of an anatomical gift pursuant to ORS 97.951 to 97.982.

(b) "Organ procurement organization" has the meaning given that term in ORS 97.953.

(2) The office of the Governor may present the Oregon Gifts of Life Award on an annual basis to families of organ donors.

(3) Organ procurement organizations or affiliated educational organizations may nominate individuals eligible under this section to represent organ donors from the previous calendar year and may submit documentation supporting the eligibility of the individuals to the office of the Governor.

(4) Organ procurement organizations shall select recipients from a list of nominations prepared under subsection (3) of this section. If more than one organ procurement organization is involved, the organ procurement organizations shall coordinate to designate by consensus the organ procurement organization that will have primary administrative responsibility under this section.

(5) Only one award may be presented to the family of each organ donor.

(6) Organ procurement organizations shall seek permission from the family of each organ donor selected to receive the Oregon Gifts of Life Award.

SECTION 3. This 2018 Act being necessary for the immediate preservation of the public peace, health and safety, an emergency is declared to exist, and this 2018 Act takes effect on its passage.

Approved by the Governor March 16, 2018

Filed in the office of Secretary of State March 21, 2018

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