

## CHAPTER 72

AN ACT

HB 4003

Relating to medical examiners; and declaring an emergency.

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

**SECTION 1.** (1) The Department of State Police shall study the causes of and ways to address the shortage of medical examiners within this state. The results of the study must include:

(a) A plan to strengthen, supplement and make operational the recommendations from the Medical Examiner Improvement in Oregon work group;

(b) A determination of how to ensure that counties are provided with stabilized and sustainable funding for medical examiner services that ORS chapter 146 requires counties to provide;

(c) An analysis of the development of new forensic pathology slots through the Oregon Health and Science University;

(d) A determination of how to ensure that Oregon is following best national and regional practices in a timely manner, including an analysis of laws and legislation from other states;

(e) An analysis of the potential utilization of the Conrad 30 waiver program for J-1 foreign medical graduates; and

(f) A determination of how to best meet regional medical examiner needs across this state.

(2) In conducting the study described in subsection (1) of this section, the department:

(a) Shall consult with all counties to ensure that any plan developed pursuant to the study does not interfere with a well-functioning med-

ical examiner program that currently exists within any county;

(b) Shall consult with district attorneys, public health providers, the Oregon Association Chiefs of Police, the Oregon State Sheriffs' Association, medical-legal death investigators, national medical examiner accrediting organizations and federally recognized tribal governments within this state and at least one member of the public who has been affected by the medical examiner shortage;

(c) Shall consult with the Oregon Health Authority concerning the potential utilization of the Conrad 30 waiver program and any other part of the study the department determines to be appropriate; and

(d) Shall consult with members of the Legislative Assembly serving on the interim committees of the Legislative Assembly related to the judiciary and health care and members of the Legislative Assembly serving on the interim subcommittee of the Joint Committee on Ways and Means related to public safety.

(3) No later than October 1, 2024, the department shall provide the results of the study, including any recommended legislative changes, in a report to the appropriate interim committees of the Legislative Assembly, in the manner provided under ORS 192.245.

**SECTION 2.** Section 1 of this 2024 Act is repealed on January 2, 2025.

**SECTION 3.** This 2024 Act being necessary for the immediate preservation of the public peace, health and safety, an emergency is declared to exist, and this 2024 Act takes effect on its passage.

Approved by the Governor April 4, 2024

Filed in the office of Secretary of State April 4, 2024

Effective date April 4, 2024