



SENATE MAJORITY OFFICE

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Senate Democrats pass bill to update marriage statutes

HB 4127 implements language that enforces marriage equality

SALEM – Oregon Senate Democrats today passed a bill to modernize language regarding marriage in state statutes to recognize marriage between same-sex couples.

House Bill 4127 – which passed the Senate on an 18-11 vote – establishes as state policy that same-sex couples enjoy the same marital privileges, rights, immunities and benefits as any other couple.

“A discrepancy currently exists between the recognized law of the land – the freedom to marry – and outdated, unenforceable language in our state statutes that defines marriage as between a husband and wife,” said Sen. Diane Rosenbaum (D-Portland), who carried the bill. “This bill updates and modernizes Oregon’s marriage statutes to fix this discrepancy and reflect that we now recognize the freedom to marry for all loving and committed couples.”

In June 2015, the United States Supreme Court established marriage equality as a fundamental right guaranteed to all couples. As a result, in Oregon and nationwide, every state has or will go through a process to update and modernize state marriage statutes to reflect this Constitutional ruling, codifying the rights of couples of the same sex.

This bill changes statutes to contain gender-neutral language, recognizing marriage as between two legally married spouses, to ensure all couples who are married in Oregon are covered under the law. These changes will ensure Oregon’s statutes are specific and in line with current law, and represent a continued commitment to supporting the rights of LGBTQ Oregonians.

House Bill 4127 now goes to Gov. Kate Brown for signature.

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