

HB 2574: New Dispositions Go into Effect July 1, 2022

[Oregon House Bill 2574](#) added a new disposition type and clarified other authorized processes for human remains. The bill goes into effect on July 1, 2022. The new disposition types will be available for decedents whose dispositions occur on or after July 1.

Natural organic reduction (human composting): the contained, accelerated conversion of human remains to soil.

Alkaline hydrolysis or hydrolysis (formerly known as dissolution): the technical process for reducing human remains by placing them in a dissolution chamber that uses heat, pressure, water and base chemical agents, in a licensed hydrolysis facility to reduce human remains to bone fragments and essential elements.

On June 21, the **Disposition** section of OVERS will be updated. The drop-down menu for the *Method of Disposition* will have the following changes:

- *Dissolution* will be renamed *Alkaline Hydrolysis*
- *Natural Organic Reduction* will be added to the list

While the natural organic reduction disposition selection will be available for decedents who have a date of death of June 21 or later, they can only be selected for **decedents with a disposition date of July 1 or later**, as this is when HB 2574 goes into effect.

If Natural Organic Reduction is selected for a date of disposition that occurs before July 1, OVERS will trigger a (red) edit. To fix this edit, please either choose a different Method of Disposition or change the Date of Disposition to on or after 07/01/2022.

Disposition

Method of disposition Other Specify

The screenshot shows a dropdown menu for 'Method of disposition'. The menu is open, displaying a list of options: Alkaline Hydrolysis, Burial, Cremation, Donation and Cremation, Entombment, Natural Organic Reduction, Removal from State, and Other. Two red arrows point to 'Alkaline Hydrolysis' and 'Natural Organic Reduction'.

If the remains are removed from Oregon to a facility in another state that performs natural organic reduction (or another type of disposition), *Removal from State* should be selected as the *Method of disposition* in OVERS.

If you have questions about these new disposition types, please contact the following CHS departments:

- For questions regarding technical changes to the OVERS system, call the OVERS Helpdesk at 971-673-0279.
- For questions about the registration of a specific record, contact CHS.Registration@dhsoha.state.or.us.
- For questions about amending a record with a new disposition type, contact the Amendments Unit at CHS.Amendments@dhsoha.state.or.us.