



Am. Sub. H.B. 257

125th General Assembly
(As Passed by the House)

Reps. Clancy, McGregor, Reidelbach, Setzer, C. Evans, Fessler, Latta, S. Patton, Kearns, Collier, Young, Seaver, Schmidt, Barrett, DeBose, S. Smith, Hoops, Cirelli, Price, Beatty, Harwood, Martin, Calvert, DeGeeter, Driehaus, Faber, Flowers, Gilb, Grendell, Hollister, Hughes, Perry, Schaffer, Schlichter

BILL SUMMARY

- Requires death certificates to contain a space in the medical certification portion of the certificate to indicate, if the deceased individual is female, whether she was pregnant at the time of death or had recently been pregnant.
- Applies the requirement only to cases in which the manner of the female's death is determined to be suspicious or violent.

CONTENT AND OPERATION

Pregnancy status information on death certificates

(R.C. 3705.08)

Current law requires the Director of the Ohio Department of Health to prescribe, through rules, the form of death certificates. Death certificates must include the items and information prescribed by the Director, including the items recommended by the National Center for Health Statistics of the United States Department of Health and Human Services as approved and modified by the Director.

The bill requires that death certificates include a space in the medical certification portion of the certificate to indicate, if the deceased individual is female and the manner of death is determined to be a suspicious or violent death, whether any of the following conditions apply to her:

- (1) She was not pregnant within the past year;

(2) She was pregnant at the time of death;

(3) She was not pregnant, but had been pregnant within 42 days prior to the time of death;

(4) She was not pregnant, but had been pregnant within 43 days to one year prior to the time of death;

(5) It was unknown whether she was pregnant within the past year.

Because the space for indicating pregnancy status is to be in the medical certification portion of the certificate, the information will have to be provided by a physician or coroner. Under current law, only a physician who attended a person's death or the county coroner may complete the medical certification portion of the certificate (R.C. 3705.16; Ohio Administrative Code 3701-5-06).

COMMENT

Appendix D of Ohio Administrative Code § 3701-5-02 is the death certificate form currently prescribed by the Director of the Ohio Department of Health. A copy of Appendix D is attached.

HISTORY

ACTION	DATE	JOURNAL ENTRY
Introduced	07-31-03	p. 1022
Reported, H. Health	05-12-04	pp. 1898-1899
Passed House (99-0)	05-25-04	pp. 1964-1965

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