

**BILL SUMMARY**  
1<sup>st</sup> Session of the 59<sup>th</sup> Legislature

<b>Bill No.:</b>	<b>SB707</b>
<b>Version:</b>	<b>ENGR</b>
<b>Request Number:</b>	
<b>Author:</b>	<b>Rep. Roe</b>
<b>Date:</b>	<b>4/11/2023</b>
<b>Impact:</b>	<b>\$0</b>

**Research Analysis**

The engrossed version of SB 707 requires that a death certificate is filed with the State Department of Health within 10 calendar days after the death of the person.

The measure requires that the funeral director must obtain the personal data from the next of kin or the best qualified person or source available and enter the personal data into the electronic system prescribed by the State Registrar of Vital Statistics. The director must also transmit the partial certificate produced by the electronic system to the physician, physician assistant, Advanced Practice Registered Nurse, or medical examiner responsible for completing the medical certification portion of the certificate of death within 24 hours after the death.

The measure requires that the certification must be completed within 5 days after receiving the partial certificate, and that the physician, physician assistant, or Advanced Practice Registered Nurse must provide a completed certificate to the director within 5 calendar days.

The measure requires the funeral director to conduct a final review of the personal data and the medical certification, electronically sign the death certificate, and submit the death certificate to the State Registrar of Vital Statistics through the electronic system prescribed by the State Registrar of Vital Statistics for official registration within 4 calendar days of receiving the medical certificate.

The measure prevents a physician, physician assistant, or Advanced Practice Registered Nurse completing and signing a medical certification from being liable in a civil action to recover damages for any acts or omissions relating to the medical certification if the cause of death is determined in good faith using the individual's best clinical judgment.

The measure also provides that if the Office of the Chief Medical Examiner declines to conduct an autopsy, the Office must make a good faith effort to so inform the person legally entitled to the custody of the body of the deceased through a written or electronic notice upon or before releasing the body.

Prepared By: Matthew Brenchley

**Fiscal Analysis**

This measure makes procedural changes to the filing and investigation of death certificates. In its current form, SB707 is not anticipated to have an impact on state budget or appropriations.

Prepared By: Robert Flipping IV, House Fiscal Staff

## **Other Considerations**

None.

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