

CS/HB 1067

2011

1                   A bill to be entitled  
2           An act relating to death and fetal death registration;  
3           amending s. 382.008, F.S.; providing for physician  
4           assistants and advanced registered nurse practitioners to  
5           provide certification of death or fetal death under  
6           certain conditions; requiring the supervising physician to  
7           verify the certification within a specified timeframe;  
8           providing an effective date.

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10   Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

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12           Section 1. Paragraph (a) of subsection (2) of section  
13   382.008, Florida Statutes, is amended, and paragraph (c) is  
14   added to subsection (3) of that section, to read:

15           382.008 Death and fetal death registration.—

16           (2) (a) The funeral director who first assumes custody of a  
17   dead body or fetus shall file the certificate of death or fetal  
18   death. In the absence of the funeral director, the physician,  
19   physician assistant, advanced registered nurse practitioner, or  
20   other person in attendance at or after the death shall file the  
21   certificate of death or fetal death. The person who files the  
22   certificate shall obtain personal data from the next of kin or  
23   the best qualified person or source available. The medical  
24   certification of cause of death shall be furnished to the  
25   funeral director, either in person or via certified mail, by the  
26   physician, physician assistant, advanced registered nurse  
27   practitioner, or medical examiner responsible for furnishing  
28   such information. For fetal deaths, the physician, physician

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29 assistant, midwife, advanced registered nurse practitioner, or  
30 hospital administrator shall provide any medical or health  
31 information to the funeral director within 72 hours after  
32 expulsion or extraction.

33 (3) Within 72 hours after receipt of a death or fetal  
34 death certificate from the funeral director, the medical  
35 certification of cause of death shall be completed and made  
36 available to the funeral director by the physician in charge of  
37 the decedent's care for the illness or condition which resulted  
38 in death, the physician in attendance at the time of death or  
39 fetal death or immediately before or after such death or fetal  
40 death, or the medical examiner if the provisions of s. 382.011  
41 apply. The physician or medical examiner shall certify over his  
42 or her signature the cause of death to the best of his or her  
43 knowledge and belief.

44 (c) Notwithstanding any other provision of this section, a  
45 physician assistant or advanced registered nurse practitioner,  
46 upon specific written or oral authorization from the physician  
47 with whom the physician assistant or advanced registered nurse  
48 practitioner has a signed protocol or supervisory relationship,  
49 may complete the medical certification of cause of death. The  
50 physician must sign this certification in writing within 24  
51 hours after the certification of death is completed and place  
52 the certification in the decedent's medical records.

53 Section 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 2011.