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CS/HB 647

2025 Legislature

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2 An act relating to advanced practice registered nurse
3 services; amending s. 382.008, F.S.; revising who may
4 file a certificate of death or fetal death; revising
5 the definition of "primary or attending practitioner";
6 revising who may note corrected information on a
7 permanent certificate of death or fetal death;
8 providing an effective date.
9

10 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:
11

12 Section 1. Paragraph (a) of subsection (2) and subsections
13 (3) and (5) of section 382.008, Florida Statutes, are amended to
14 read:

15 382.008 Death, fetal death, and nonviable birth
16 registration.—

17 (2)(a) The funeral director who first assumes custody of a
18 dead body or fetus shall electronically file the certificate of
19 death or fetal death. In the absence of the funeral director,
20 the physician, physician assistant, advanced practice registered
21 nurse registered under s. 464.0123, advanced practice registered
22 nurse providing hospice care pursuant to a written protocol with
23 a licensed physician, or other person in attendance at or after
24 the death or the district medical examiner of the county in
25 which the death occurred or the body was found shall

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electronically file the certificate of death or fetal death. The person who files the certificate shall obtain personal data from a legally authorized person as described in s. 497.005 or the best qualified person or source available. The medical certification of cause of death must be furnished to the funeral director, either in person or via certified mail or electronic transfer, by the physician, physician assistant, advanced practice registered nurse registered under s. 464.0123, advanced practice registered nurse providing hospice care pursuant to a written protocol with a licensed physician, or medical examiner responsible for furnishing such information. For fetal deaths, the physician, physician assistant, advanced practice registered nurse registered under s. 464.0123, advanced practice registered nurse providing hospice care pursuant to a written protocol with a licensed physician, midwife, or hospital administrator shall provide any medical or health information to the funeral director within 72 hours after expulsion or extraction.

(3) Within 72 hours after receipt of a death or fetal death certificate from the funeral director, the medical certification of cause of death shall be completed and made available to the funeral director by the decedent's primary or attending practitioner or, if s. 382.011 applies, the district medical examiner of the county in which the death occurred or the body was found. The primary or attending practitioner or the medical examiner shall certify over his or her signature the

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51 cause of death to the best of his or her knowledge and belief.
52 As used in this section, the term "primary or attending
53 practitioner" means a physician, physician assistant, ~~or~~
54 advanced practice registered nurse registered under s. 464.0123,
55 or an advanced practice registered nurse providing hospice care
56 pursuant to a written protocol with a licensed physician, who
57 treated the decedent through examination, medical advice, or
58 medication during the 12 months preceding the date of death.

59 (a) The department may grant the funeral director an
60 extension of time upon a good and sufficient showing of any of
61 the following conditions:

- 62 1. An autopsy is pending.
63 2. Toxicology, laboratory, or other diagnostic reports
64 have not been completed.
65 3. The identity of the decedent is unknown and further
66 investigation or identification is required.

67 (b) If the decedent's primary or attending practitioner or
68 the district medical examiner of the county in which the death
69 occurred or the body was found indicates that he or she will
70 sign and complete the medical certification of cause of death
71 but will not be available until after the 5-day registration
72 deadline, the local registrar may grant an extension of 5 days.
73 If a further extension is required, the funeral director must
74 provide written justification to the registrar.

75 (5) A permanent certificate of death or fetal death,

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76 | containing the cause of death and any other information that was
77 | previously unavailable, shall be registered as a replacement for
78 | the temporary certificate. The permanent certificate may also
79 | include corrected information if the items being corrected are
80 | noted on the back of the certificate and dated and signed by the
81 | funeral director, physician, physician assistant, advanced
82 | practice registered nurse registered under s. 464.0123, an
83 | advanced practice registered nurse providing hospice care
84 | pursuant to a written protocol with a licensed physician, or
85 | district medical examiner of the county in which the death
86 | occurred or the body was found, as appropriate.

87 | Section 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 2025.