

By the Committee on Health Policy; and Senator Calatayud

588-03142-25

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A bill to be entitled  
An act relating to physician assistant and advanced  
practice registered nurse services; amending s.  
382.008, F.S.; revising who may file a certificate of  
death or fetal death; revising who may note corrected  
information on a permanent certificate of death or  
fetal death; providing an effective date.

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

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

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

(2)(a) The funeral director who first assumes custody of a  
dead body or fetus shall electronically file the certificate of  
death or fetal death. In the absence of the funeral director,  
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 other person in attendance at or after  
the death or the district medical examiner of the county in  
which the death occurred or the body was found shall  
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

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30 director, either in person or via certified mail or electronic  
31 transfer, by the physician, physician assistant, advanced  
32 practice registered nurse registered under s. 464.0123, advanced  
33 practice registered nurse providing hospice care pursuant to a  
34 written protocol with a licensed physician, or medical examiner  
35 responsible for furnishing such information. For fetal deaths,  
36 the physician, physician assistant, advanced practice registered  
37 nurse registered under s. 464.0123, advanced practice registered  
38 nurse providing hospice care pursuant to a written protocol with  
39 a licensed physician, midwife, or hospital administrator shall  
40 provide any medical or health information to the funeral  
41 director within 72 hours after expulsion or extraction.

42 (3) Within 72 hours after receipt of a death or fetal death  
43 certificate from the funeral director, the medical certification  
44 of cause of death shall be completed and made available to the  
45 funeral director by the decedent's primary or attending  
46 practitioner or, if s. 382.011 applies, the district medical  
47 examiner of the county in which the death occurred or the body  
48 was found. The primary or attending practitioner or the medical  
49 examiner shall certify over his or her signature the cause of  
50 death to the best of his or her knowledge and belief. As used in  
51 this section, the term "primary or attending practitioner" means  
52 a physician, a physician assistant, an ~~or~~ advanced practice  
53 registered nurse registered under s. 464.0123, or an advanced  
54 practice registered nurse providing hospice care pursuant to a  
55 written protocol with a licensed physician, who treated the  
56 decedent through examination, medical advice, or medication  
57 during the 12 months preceding the date of death.

58 (a) The department may grant the funeral director an

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59 extension of time upon a good and sufficient showing of any of  
60 the following conditions:

61 1. An autopsy is pending.  
62 2. Toxicology, laboratory, or other diagnostic reports have  
63 not been completed.

64 3. The identity of the decedent is unknown and further  
65 investigation or identification is required.

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

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

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