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**SUBSTITUTE HOUSE BILL 2300**

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**State of Washington**                      **52nd Legislature**                      **1992 Regular Session**

**By** House Committee on Local Government (originally sponsored by Representative Peery)

Read first time 02/07/92.

1            AN ACT Relating to death and burial records; adding a new section  
2 to chapter 70.58 RCW; and repealing RCW 70.58.160, 70.58.170,  
3 70.58.180, and 70.58.190.

4 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON:

5            NEW SECTION.    **Sec. 1.** A new section is added to chapter 70.58 RCW  
6 to read as follows:

7            (1) A certificate of death for each death that occurs in this state  
8 shall be filed with the local registrar of the district in which the  
9 death or fetal death occurred within three working days after a death  
10 is known and prior to final disposition. All items on the death  
11 certificate form shall be completed.

12            (a) If the place of death is unknown but the dead body is found in  
13 Washington state, the certificate of death shall be completed and filed

1 in the registration district in which the body is found. If the date  
2 of death is unknown, it shall be determined by approximation.

3 (b) If the death occurs in a moving conveyance in the United States  
4 and the body is first removed from the conveyance in Washington state,  
5 the death shall be registered in the registration district in which the  
6 body is removed. If a death occurs in a moving conveyance while in  
7 international waters or air space or in a foreign country or its air  
8 space and the body is first removed from the conveyance in Washington  
9 state, the death shall be registered in the registration district in  
10 which the body is removed, but the certificate shall show the actual  
11 place of death insofar as can be determined.

12 (2) The funeral director or person acting as such who first assumes  
13 custody of the dead body shall file the certificate of death. He or  
14 she shall obtain the personal data from the next of kin or the best  
15 qualified person or source available and shall obtain the cause of  
16 death from the attending physician, coroner, or medical examiner.

17 (3) The cause of death section shall be completed, signed, and made  
18 available to the funeral director within forty-eight hours after death  
19 by the physician in attendance or physician's designee at the time of  
20 death according to his or her best knowledge and belief. If there is  
21 no attending physician or physician's designee or if the attending  
22 physician and the physician's designee will be unavailable for  
23 signature for forty-eight hours after death, the certificate shall be  
24 completed and signed by one of the following:

25 (a) Any physician who has access to the decedent's medical history;  
26 and

27 (b) The physician, coroner, or medical examiner who obtains  
28 jurisdiction over the decedent under RCW 68.50.010.

29 (4) If the cause of death cannot be determined within forty-eight  
30 hours after death, the attending physician, coroner, or medical

1 examiner shall state the cause of death as pending investigation or  
2 unknown and the death certificate shall be made available to the  
3 funeral director or the person acting as such. If the cause of death  
4 becomes known, the attending physician, coroner, or medical examiner  
5 shall complete an affidavit for correction and file it with the local  
6 registrar.

7 (5) Final disposition or removal from the state of Washington shall  
8 not be made until authorized by the local registrar or subdeputy local  
9 registrar.

10 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** The following acts or parts of acts are  
11 each repealed:

12 (1) RCW 70.58.160 and 1961 ex.s. c 5 s 12 & 1945 c 159 s 1;

13 (2) RCW 70.58.170 and 1979 ex.s. c 162 s 1, 1961 ex.s. c 5 s 13, &  
14 1945 c 159 s 2;

15 (3) RCW 70.58.180 and 1961 ex.s. c 5 s 14, 1953 c 188 s 5, & 1945  
16 c 159 s 3; and

17 (4) RCW 70.58.190 and 1945 c 159 s 4.