
OLR Bill Analysis

sHB 5421

AN ACT EXEMPTING DEATH CERTIFICATES OF MINORS FROM PUBLIC DISCLOSURE FOR A SIX-MONTH PERIOD.

SUMMARY:

This bill, with certain exceptions, prohibits the Department of Public Health (DPH) and registrars of vital statistics from disclosing a minor's death certificate to anyone for a six-month period following his or her death. The exceptions are (1) the minor's spouse, parent, grandparent, guardian, or sibling; (2) the licensed funeral director or embalmer acting on behalf of such relatives and directly responsible for disposing of the minor's remains; and (3) agents of a state or federal agency, as approved by DPH.

The bill specifies that (1) certified and uncertified copies of the certificate are not subject to disclosure under the Freedom of Information Act during this period and (2) it does not apply to fetal death records.

By law, anyone age 18 or older may purchase a certified copy of a death certificate. Uncertified copies are available to approved (1) researchers, (2) genealogical societies, and (3) state and federal agencies.

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 2013

BACKGROUND

Related Bill

sHB 5733, reported favorably by the Public Health Committee, limits the publicly available information contained on a death certificate.

COMMITTEE ACTION

Government Administration and Elections Committee

Joint Favorable Substitute

Yea 14 Nay 0 (04/05/2013)