
HOUSE BILL 2300

State of Washington

52nd Legislature

1992 Regular Session

By Representative Peery

Read first time 01/14/92. Referred to Committee on Local Government.

1 AN ACT Relating to death and burial records; and amending RCW
2 70.58.030, 70.58.160, 70.58.190, 70.58.240, and 70.58.250.

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

4 **Sec. 1.** RCW 70.58.030 and 1990 c 99 s 1 are each amended to read
5 as follows:

6 The local registrar shall supply blank forms of certificates to
7 such persons as require them. He or she shall carefully examine each
8 certificate of birth, death, and fetal death when presented for record,
9 and see that it has been made out in accordance with the provisions of
10 law and the instructions of the state registrar. If any certificate of
11 death is incomplete or unsatisfactory, the local registrar shall call
12 attention to the defects in the return(~~(, and withhold issuing the~~
13 ~~burial transit permit until it is corrected. If the certificate of~~
14 ~~death is properly executed and complete,)). He or she shall issue a~~

1 burial-transit permit to the funeral director or person acting as such.
2 If a certificate of a birth is incomplete, he or she shall immediately
3 notify the informant, and require that the missing items be supplied if
4 they can be obtained. He or she shall sign as local registrar to each
5 certificate filed in attest of the date of filing in the office. He or
6 she shall make a record of each birth, death, and fetal death
7 certificate registered in such manner as directed by the state
8 registrar. The local registrar shall transmit to the state registrar
9 each original death or fetal death certificate no less than thirty days
10 after the certificate was registered nor more than sixty days after the
11 certificate was registered. On or before the fifteenth day and the
12 last day of each month, each local registrar shall transmit to the
13 state registrar all original birth certificates that were registered
14 prior to that day and which had not been transmitted previously. A
15 local registrar shall transmit an original certificate to the state
16 registrar whenever the state registrar requests the transfer of the
17 certificate from the local registrar. If no births or no deaths
18 occurred in any month, he or she shall, on the tenth day of the
19 following month, report that fact to the state registrar, on a card
20 provided for this purpose. Local registrars in counties in which a
21 first class city or a city of twenty-seven thousand or more population
22 is located may retain an exact copy of the original and make certified
23 copies of the exact copy.

24 **Sec. 2.** RCW 70.58.160 and 1961 ex.s. c 5 s 12 are each amended to
25 read as follows:

26 A certificate of every death or fetal death shall be filed with the
27 local registrar of the district in which the death or fetal death
28 occurred within three days after the occurrence is known, or if the
29 place of death or fetal death is not known, then with the local

1 registrar of the district in which the body is found within twenty-four
2 hours thereafter. (~~In every instance a certificate shall be filed~~
3 ~~prior to the interment or other disposition of the body: PROVIDED,~~
4 ~~That~~) A certificate of fetal death shall not be required if the period
5 of gestation is less than twenty weeks.

6 **Sec. 3.** RCW 70.58.190 and 1945 c 159 s 4 are each amended to read
7 as follows:

8 If the cause of death cannot be determined within three days, the
9 certification of its cause may be filed after the prescribed period,
10 but the attending physician, coroner, or prosecuting attorney shall
11 give the local registrar of the district in which the death occurred
12 written notice of the reason for the delay(~~(, in order that a permit~~
13 ~~for the disposition of the body may be issued if required)~~).

14 **Sec. 4.** RCW 70.58.240 and 1961 ex.s. c 5 s 17 are each amended to
15 read as follows:

16 Each funeral director or person acting as such shall obtain a
17 certificate of death and file the same with the local registrar(~~(,~~
18 ~~and)~~). He or she shall secure a burial-transit permit(~~(,)~~) prior to
19 any permanent disposition of the body. He or she shall obtain the
20 personal and statistical particulars required, from the person best
21 qualified to supply them. He or she shall present the certificate to
22 the attending physician or in case the death occurred without any
23 medical attendance, to the proper official for certification for the
24 medical certificate of the cause of death and other particulars
25 necessary to complete the record. He or she shall supply the
26 information required relative to the date and place of disposition and
27 he or she shall present the completed certificate to the local
28 registrar(~~(, for the issuance of a burial-transit permit)~~). He or she

1 shall deliver the burial permit to the sexton, or person in charge of
2 the place of burial, before interring the body; or shall attach the
3 transit permit to the box containing the corpse, when shipped by any
4 transportation company, and the permit shall accompany the corpse to
5 its destination.

6 **Sec. 5.** RCW 70.58.250 and 1961 ex.s. c 5 s 18 are each amended to
7 read as follows:

8 The burial-transit permit shall contain a statement by the local
9 registrar and over his or her signature, that ((~~a satisfactory~~
10 ~~certificate of death having been filed with him, as required by law,~~)
11 permission is granted to inter, remove, or otherwise dispose of the
12 body; stating the name of the deceased and other necessary details upon
13 the form prescribed by the state registrar.