
HOUSE BILL 1023

State of Washington 62nd Legislature 2011 Regular Session

By Representatives Goodman, Ross, Springer, Pearson, and Eddy

Prefiled 12/13/10.

1 AN ACT Relating to presumed death certificates; amending RCW
2 70.58.390; and creating a new section.

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

4 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** This act may be known and cited as the Tor
5 Bilet act of 2011.

6 **Sec. 2.** RCW 70.58.390 and 2005 c 365 s 160 are each amended to
7 read as follows:

8 A county coroner, medical examiner, or the prosecuting attorney
9 having jurisdiction may file a certificate of presumed death when the
10 official filing the certificate determines to the best of the
11 official's knowledge and belief that there is sufficient circumstantial
12 evidence to indicate that a person has in fact died in the county or in
13 waters contiguous to the county and that it is unlikely that the body
14 will be recovered. The certificate shall recite, to the extent
15 possible, the date, circumstances, and place of the death, and shall be
16 the legally accepted fact of death.

17 In the event that the county in which the death occurred cannot be

1 determined with certainty, the county coroner, medical examiner, or
2 prosecuting attorney in the county in which:

3 (1) The events occurred and in which the decedent was last known to
4 be alive may file a certificate of presumed death under this section;
5 or

6 (2) The decedent was last known to be alive may file a certificate
7 of presumed death under this section.

8 The official filing the certificate of presumed death shall file
9 the certificate with the local registrar of the county where the death
10 was presumed to have occurred, and thereafter all persons and parties
11 acting in good faith may rely thereon with acquittance.

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