
Health Care & Wellness Committee

HB 1031

Brief Description: Concerning the government issuance of a certificate of birth resulting in stillbirth.

Sponsors: Representatives Walen, Valdez, Leavitt, Ortiz-Self, Springer, Stonier and Santos.

<p style="text-align: center;">Brief Summary of Bill</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Allows a person who gives birth to a stillborn fetus to request and receive a certificate of birth resulting in stillbirth from the state or local registrar.

Hearing Date: 1/13/21

Staff: Corey Patton (786-7388).

Background:

The Department of Health (DOH) and the auditor's office of each county collect reports of all vital life events in the state, including births, deaths, and fetal deaths, when those events occur.

The state or local registrar may issue reports of a fetal death as a certification of fetal death upon application by:

- a parent, a parent's legal representative, an authorized representative, a sibling, or a grandparent;
- the funeral director or establishment named on the fetal death record, within 12 months of the date of fetal death; or
- a government agency or court, if the certification will be used in the conduct of the agency's or court's official duties.

This analysis was prepared by non-partisan legislative staff for the use of legislative members in their deliberations. This analysis is not part of the legislation nor does it constitute a statement of legislative intent.

A "fetal death" is any product of conception that:

- shows no evidence of life, such as breathing, beating of the heart, pulsation of the umbilical cord, or definite movement of voluntary muscles after complete expulsion or extraction from the individual who gave birth;
- is not an induced termination of pregnancy; and
- has completed 20 or more weeks of gestation; or weighs 350 grams or more, if weeks of gestation are not known.

Summary of Bill:

The state or local registrar may issue reports of fetal death as a certification of a fetal death, a certification of birth resulting in a stillbirth, or both. Only the person who gave birth to a stillborn fetus, as listed on the fetal death record, may apply for and receive a certification of birth resulting in stillbirth.

A certification of birth resulting in stillbirth must:

- comply with the state registrar's format requirements;
- be in a format similar to a certification of birth; and
- contain a title at the top of the certification that reads, "This certificate of birth resulting in stillbirth is not proof of a live birth and is not an identity document."

"Stillbirth" has the same meaning as "fetal death."

Appropriation: None.

Fiscal Note: Available.

Effective Date: This bill takes effect 90 days after adjournment of the session in which the bill is passed, except for section 2, relating to authorizing the issuance of certificates of birth resulting in a stillbirth, which takes effect October 1, 2022.