

Legislative Council Staff

Nonpartisan Services for Colorado's Legislature

Final Fiscal Note

Drafting Number: Prime Sponsors:	LLS 23-0329 Sen. Coleman Rep. Jodeh; Weinberg	Bill Status:	August 31, 2023 Signed into Law Colin Gaiser 303-866-2677 colin.gaiser@coleg.gov
Bill Topic:	TIMELY CERTIFIED DEATH CERTIFICATES		
Summary of Fiscal Impact:		☐ TABOR Refund ☐ Local Government ☐ Statutory Public Entity rame required for a funeral director to file a certificate or	
	death from 5 days to 72 hours and requires the use of the electronic death registration system. The bill decreases state workload and increases local expenditures on arongoing basis.		
Appropriation Summary:	No appropriation is required.		
Fiscal Note Status:	The fiscal note reflects the enacted bill.		

Summary of Legislation

The bill changes the time frame required for funeral directors to file a certificate of death with the state registrar from 5 days to 72 hours, upon assuming custody of a dead body, with exceptions for when additional time is necessary to determine the cause and manner of death. The bill requires that a qualified individual complete the medical certification within 72 hours after receipt of the electronic death registration request, unless an inquiry to the coroner is required. A coroner or other qualified individual that determines the cause of death and completes the proper medical certification must use the Department of Public Health and Environment's (CDPHE's) electronic death registration system.

Background

Current Colorado law requires a certificate of death be filed with the Office of State Registrar of Vital Statistics in CDPHE within five days after a death occurs. Over the past three years, Colorado recorded an average of 42,000 deaths per year. The majority of death certificates are recorded in the electronic death registration system (EDRS), while an average of 8,775 death certificates per year are received outside the electronic system and require manual entry. The office currently does not dedicate specific staff to fill death certificate requests, so requests are included in the queue for all certificate record requests received.

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State Expenditure

By requiring the use of the EDRS, the bill will decrease workload for the CDPHE. It is assumed that a decrease in staffing is not required, and that this change will result in faster processing of all types of certificate requests.

Local Government

County coroners and county vital records office staff may have increased workloads to meet the bill's accelerated time frames. The exact impact will vary depending on their current practices.

Effective Date

The bill was signed into law by the Governor on May 1, 2023, and it took effect on August 7, 2023.

State and Local Government Contacts

County Coroners Law

Regulatory Agencies

Counties Local Affairs Information Technology Public Health