

**First Regular Session  
Sixty-eighth General Assembly  
STATE OF COLORADO**

**PREAMENDED**

*This Unofficial Version Includes Committee  
Amendments Not Yet Adopted on Second Reading*

LLS NO. 11-0073.01 Michael Dohr

**HOUSE BILL 11-1183**

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**HOUSE SPONSORSHIP**

**Bradford,**

**SENATE SPONSORSHIP**

**Spence,**

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**House Committees**  
Health and Environment

**Senate Committees**  
State, Veterans & Military Affairs

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**A BILL FOR AN ACT**

101     **CONCERNING A REQUIREMENT THAT A DEATH CERTIFICATE INDICATE**  
102             **WHETHER THE DECEDENT WAS PREGNANT WITHIN THE TWELVE**  
103             **MONTHS PRECEDING DEATH.**

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**Bill Summary**

*(Note: This summary applies to this bill as introduced and does not reflect any amendments that may be subsequently adopted. If this bill passes third reading in the house of introduction, a bill summary that applies to the reengrossed version of this bill will be available at <http://www.leg.state.co.us/billsummaries>.)*

The bill requires the medical professional issuing a medical certification after a death to indicate whether the decedent was pregnant at the time of death or within the 12 months preceding death when the medical professional has access to the certification form that permits

Shading denotes HOUSE amendment. Double underlining denotes SENATE amendment.  
*Capital letters indicate new material to be added to existing statute.*  
*Dashes through the words indicate deletions from existing statute.*

HOUSE  
3rd Reading Unam ended  
February 25, 2011

HOUSE  
2nd Reading Unam ended  
February 22, 2011

compliance. The information is then included on the death certificate.

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1 *Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Colorado:*

2 **SECTION 1.** 25-2-110 (4), (5), (6), and (9), Colorado Revised  
3 Statutes, are amended to read:

4 **25-2-110. Certificates of death.** (4) Except when inquiry is  
5 required by section 30-10-606, C.R.S., the physician in charge of the  
6 patient's care for the illness or condition ~~which~~ THAT resulted in death  
7 shall complete, sign, and return to the funeral director or person acting as  
8 such all medical certification within forty-eight hours after a death occurs.  
9 In the absence of said physician or with his OR HER approval, the  
10 certificate may be completed and signed by his OR HER associate  
11 physician, by the chief medical officer of the institution in which the  
12 death occurred, or by the physician who performed an autopsy upon the  
13 decedent, if such individual has access to the medical history of the case,  
14 if he OR SHE views the ~~deceased~~ DECEDENT at or after the time of death,  
15 and if the death is due to natural causes. IF AN AUTOPSY IS PERFORMED,  
16 THE CERTIFICATION SHALL INDICATE WHETHER THE DECEDENT WAS  
17 PREGNANT AT THE TIME OF DEATH \_\_\_ AND SAID INFORMATION SHALL BE  
18 REPORTED ON THE DEATH CERTIFICATE AS REQUIRED BY SUBSECTION (9)  
19 OF THIS SECTION.

20 (5) When inquiry is required by section 30-10-606, C.R.S., the  
21 coroner shall determine the cause of death and shall complete and sign the  
22 medical certification within forty-eight hours after taking charge of the  
23 case. IF AN AUTOPSY IS PERFORMED, THE CERTIFICATION SHALL INDICATE  
24 WHETHER THE DECEDENT WAS PREGNANT AT THE TIME OF DEATH, \_\_\_ AND  
25 SAID INFORMATION SHALL BE REPORTED ON THE DEATH CERTIFICATE AS

1 REQUIRED BY SUBSECTION (9) OF THIS SECTION.

2 (6) If the cause of death cannot be determined within forty-eight  
3 hours after a death, the medical certification shall be completed as  
4 provided by ~~regulation~~ RULE. IF AN AUTOPSY IS PERFORMED, THE  
5 CERTIFICATION SHALL INDICATE WHETHER THE DECEDENT WAS PREGNANT  
6 AT THE TIME OF DEATH      AND SAID INFORMATION SHALL BE REPORTED  
7 ON THE DEATH CERTIFICATE AS REQUIRED BY SUBSECTION (9) OF THIS  
8 SECTION. The attending physician or coroner shall give the funeral  
9 director or person acting as such notice of the reason for the delay, and  
10 final disposition of the body shall not be made until authorized by the  
11 office designated or established pursuant to section 25-2-103 in the  
12 county where the death occurred or, if such an office does not exist in the  
13 county where the death occurred, final disposition of the body shall not  
14 be made until authorized by the coroner or the coroner's designee.

15 (9) (a) ~~If a death is determined to be a homicide,~~ IF AN AUTOPSY IS  
16 PERFORMED, a certificate of death shall identify whether the ~~deceased~~  
17 DECEDENT was pregnant at the time of death.

18 (b) THE REQUIREMENT IN THIS SUBSECTION (9) AND SUBSECTIONS  
19 (4), (5), AND (6) OF THIS SECTION TO INDICATE WHETHER THE DECEDENT  
20 WAS PREGNANT AT THE TIME OF DEATH      SHALL BE COMPLIED WITH  
21 WHEN THE PERSON REQUIRED TO MAKE THE DESIGNATION HAS ACCESS TO  
22 THE CERTIFICATION FORM THAT PERMITS COMPLIANCE.

23 **SECTION 2. Act subject to petition - effective date.** This act  
24 shall take effect at 12:01 a.m. on the day following the expiration of the  
25 ninety-day period after final adjournment of the general assembly (August  
26 10, 2011, if adjournment sine die is on May 11, 2011); except that, if a  
27 referendum petition is filed pursuant to section 1 (3) of article V of the

1 state constitution against this act or an item, section, or part of this act  
2 within such period, then the act, item, section, or part shall not take effect  
3 unless approved by the people at the general election to be held in  
4 November 2012 and shall take effect on the date of the official  
5 declaration of the vote thereon by the governor.