



Lisa Baumann

Bill Analysis
Legislative Service Commission

Sub. H.B. 257
125th General Assembly
(As Reported by H. Health)

Reps. Clancy, McGregor, Reidelbach, Setzer, C. Evans, Fessler, Latta, S. Patton, Kearns, Collier, Young, Seaver, Schmidt, Barrett, DeBose, S. Smith, Hoops, Cirelli, Price, Beatty, Harwood, Martin

BILL SUMMARY

- Requires death certificates to contain a space in the medical certification portion of the certificate to indicate, if the deceased individual is female, whether she was pregnant at the time of death or had recently been pregnant.

CONTENT AND OPERATION

Information on death certificates

(R.C. 3705.08)

Current law requires the Director of the Ohio Department of Health to prescribe, through rules, the form of death certificates. Death certificates must include the items and information prescribed by the Director, including the items recommended by the National Center for Health Statistics of the United States Department of Health and Human Services as approved and modified by the Director (see **COMMENT**).

The bill adds a requirement that death certificates include a space in the medical certification portion of the certificate to indicate, if the deceased individual is female, whether any of the following conditions apply to her:

- (1) She was not pregnant within the past year;
- (2) She was pregnant at the time of death;
- (3) She was not pregnant, but had been pregnant within 42 days prior to the time of death;

(4) She was not pregnant, but had been pregnant within 43 days to one year prior to the time of death;

(5) It was unknown whether she was pregnant within the past year.

The effect of requiring that the space for indicating pregnancy status be in the medical certification portion of the certificate is that the information will have to be provided by a physician or coroner. Under current law, only a physician who attended a person's death or the county coroner may complete the medical certification portion of the certificate (R.C. 3705.16; Ohio Administrative Code 3701-5-06).

COMMENT

Appendix D of Ohio Administrative Code § 3701-5-02 is the death certificate form currently prescribed by the Director of the Ohio Department of Health. A copy of Appendix D is attached.

HISTORY

| ACTION | DATE | JOURNAL ENTRY |
|---------------------|----------|---------------|
| Introduced | 07-31-03 | p. 1022 |
| Reported, H. Health | 05-12-04 | pp. 1898-1899 |

h0257-rh-125.doc/kl