

HB4746



104TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY

State of Illinois

2025 and 2026

HB4746

by Rep. Kelly M. Cassidy

SYNOPSIS AS INTRODUCED:

410 ILCS 535/18

from Ch. 111 1/2, par. 73-18

Amends the Vital Records Act. Provides that, as part of an investigation by a coroner or medical examiner, the coroner or medical examiner shall collect social information about the decedent to limit instances of misidentification, including, but not limited to, the decedent's manner of dress, relevant information about the area where the decedent was found, and any inconsistency in official records.

LRB104 19431 BDA 32879 b

A BILL FOR

1 AN ACT concerning health.

2 **Be it enacted by the People of the State of Illinois,**
3 **represented in the General Assembly:**

4 Section 5. The Vital Records Act is amended by changing
5 Section 18 as follows:

6 (410 ILCS 535/18) (from Ch. 111 1/2, par. 73-18)

7 Sec. 18. (1) Each death which occurs in this State shall be
8 registered by filing a death certificate with the local
9 registrar of the district in which the death occurred or the
10 body was found, within 7 days after such death (within 5 days
11 if the death occurs prior to January 1, 1989) and prior to
12 cremation or removal of the body from the State, except when
13 death is subject to investigation by the coroner or medical
14 examiner. As part of the investigation, the coroner or medical
15 examiner shall collect social information about the decedent
16 to limit instances of misidentification, including, but not
17 limited to, the decedent's manner of dress, relevant
18 information about the area where the decedent was found, and
19 any inconsistency in official records. If a death occurs in
20 this State in a county outside the deceased's county of
21 residence, the local registrar of the district in which the
22 death certificate was filed shall, within 7 days of its
23 filing, send a copy of the death certificate to the local

1 registrar in the district where the deceased's county of
2 residence is located.

3 (a) For the purposes of this Section, if the place of
4 death is unknown, a death certificate shall be filed in
5 the registration district in which a dead body is found,
6 which shall be considered the place of death.

7 (b) When a death occurs on a moving conveyance, the
8 place where the body is first removed from the conveyance
9 shall be considered the place of death and a death
10 certificate shall be filed in the registration district in
11 which such place is located.

12 (c) The funeral director who first assumes custody of
13 a dead body shall be responsible for filing a completed
14 death certificate. He or she shall obtain the personal
15 data from the next of kin or the best qualified person or
16 source available; he or she shall enter on the certificate
17 the name, relationship, and address of the informant; he
18 or she shall enter the date, place, and method of final
19 disposition; he or she shall affix his or her own
20 signature and enter his or her address; and shall present
21 the certificate to the person responsible for completing
22 the medical certification of cause of death. The person
23 responsible for completing the medical certification of
24 cause of death must note the presence of
25 methicillin-resistant staphylococcus aureus, clostridium
26 difficile, or vancomycin-resistant enterococci if it is a

1 contributing factor to or the cause of death. Additional
2 multi-drug resistant organisms (MDROs) may be added to
3 this list by the Department by rule.

4 (2) The medical certification shall be completed and
5 signed within 48 hours after death by the certifying health
6 care professional who, within 12 months prior to the date of
7 the patient's death, was treating or managing treatment of the
8 patient's illness or condition which resulted in death, except
9 when death is subject to the coroner's or medical examiner's
10 investigation. In the absence of the certifying health care
11 professional or with his or her approval, the medical
12 certificate may be completed and signed by his or her
13 associate physician, advanced practice registered nurse, or
14 physician assistant, the chief medical officer of the
15 institution in which death occurred, or the physician who
16 performed an autopsy upon the decedent.

17 (3) When a death occurs without medical attendance, or
18 when it is otherwise subject to the coroner's or medical
19 examiner's investigation, the coroner or medical examiner
20 shall be responsible for the completion of a coroner's or
21 medical examiner's certificate of death and shall sign the
22 medical certification within 48 hours after death, except as
23 provided by regulation in special problem cases. If the
24 decedent was under the age of 18 years at the time of his or
25 her death, and the death was due to injuries suffered as a
26 result of a motor vehicle backing over a child, or if the death

1 occurred due to the power window of a motor vehicle, the
2 coroner or medical examiner must send a copy of the medical
3 certification, with information documenting that the death was
4 due to a vehicle backing over the child or that the death was
5 caused by a power window of a vehicle, to the Department of
6 Children and Family Services. The Department of Children and
7 Family Services shall (i) collect this information for use by
8 Child Death Review Teams and (ii) compile and maintain this
9 information as part of its Annual Child Death Review Team
10 Report to the General Assembly.

11 (3.5) The medical certification of cause of death shall
12 expressly provide an opportunity for the person completing the
13 certification to indicate that the death was caused in whole
14 or in part by a dementia-related disease, Parkinson's Disease,
15 or Parkinson-Dementia Complex.

16 (4) When the deceased was a veteran of any war of the
17 United States, the funeral director shall prepare a
18 "Certificate of Burial of U. S. War Veteran", as prescribed
19 and furnished by the Illinois Department of Veterans Affairs,
20 and submit such certificate to the Illinois Department of
21 Veterans Affairs monthly.

22 (5) When a death is presumed to have occurred in this State
23 but the body cannot be located, a death certificate may be
24 prepared by the State Registrar upon receipt of an order of a
25 court of competent jurisdiction which includes the finding of
26 facts required to complete the death certificate. Such death

1 certificate shall be marked "Presumptive" and shall show on
2 its face the date of the registration and shall identify the
3 court and the date of the judgment.

4 (Source: P.A. 103-154, eff. 6-30-23; 103-741, eff. 8-2-24;
5 104-234, eff. 8-15-25.)