



2017 ASSEMBLY BILL 817

January 5, 2018 - Introduced by Representatives AUGUST, C. TAYLOR, LOUDENBECK, BALLWEG, BERCEAU, STEFFEN, SINICKI, SUBECK and FIELDS. Referred to Committee on Health.

1 **AN ACT** *to repeal* 69.18 (1m) (a) 3. and 69.21 (1) (b) 4.; *to amend* 69.18 (1m)
2 (intro.), 69.20 (2) (c) and 69.21 (1) (b) 5.; and *to create* 69.18 (1m) (b) 4. of the
3 statutes; **relating to:** omission of cause and manner of death on copies of death
4 certificates.

Analysis by the Legislative Reference Bureau

This bill expands the option for a person to request a copy of a death certificate that omits the cause of death and establishes the option for a person to request a copy of a death certificate that omits the manner of death.

A death certificate consists of certain fact-of-death information, including the manner of the decedent's death, the cause of death, and injury-related data. Under current law, certain individuals may request a copy of a death certificate, including certain immediate family members of a deceased person and other authorized individuals.

Current law allows the registrar that issues a copy of the death certificate to issue, upon request, a copy that does not include the cause of death, but only for deaths that occurred before January 1, 2003. Under current law, a person does not have the option to request a copy of a death certificate that excludes the cause and manner of death for a death that occurred after December 31, 2002.

This bill expands the options for an authorized requester, allowing a registrar to issue, upon request, a copy of a death certificate that does not include the cause or manner of death, regardless of when the death occurred. The bill also removes the manner of death information from the standard fact-of-death information to be

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included on a copy of a death certificate. The bill instead includes the manner of death as part of a list of extended fact-of-death information provided to a person seeking a copy of a death certificate only upon request. The bill allows a person to request a copy of a death certificate that includes the extended fact-of-death information, but omits the cause and manner of death. The bill also limits access to the manner of death information until 50 years after a decedent's date of death.

For further information see the *state* fiscal estimate, which will be printed as an appendix to this bill.

The people of the state of Wisconsin, represented in senate and assembly, do enact as follows:

1 **SECTION 1.** 69.18 (1m) (intro.) of the statutes is amended to read:

2 69.18 **(1m)** **FORMAT.** (intro.) ~~Beginning on January 1, 2003, a~~ A certificate of
3 death shall consist of the following parts:

4 **SECTION 2.** 69.18 (1m) (a) 3. of the statutes is repealed.

5 **SECTION 3.** 69.18 (1m) (b) 4. of the statutes is created to read:

6 69.18 **(1m)** (b) 4. The manner of the decedent's death.

7 **SECTION 4.** 69.20 (2) (c) of the statutes is amended to read:

8 69.20 **(2)** (c) Except as provided under sub. (3), until 50 years after a decedent's
9 date of death, the state registrar and a local registrar may not permit inspection of
10 or disclose information contained in the portion under s. 69.18 (1m) (b) 2. ~~and 3., 3.,~~
11 and 4. of the certificate of death to anyone except to a person specified under sub. (1),
12 or to a direct descendent of the decedent.

13 **SECTION 5.** 69.21 (1) (b) 4. of the statutes is repealed.

14 **SECTION 6.** 69.21 (1) (b) 5. of the statutes is amended to read:

15 69.21 **(1)** (b) 5. A copy of a death certificate issued under par. (a) ~~for a death that~~
16 ~~occurs after December 31, 2002,~~ shall be on a form that contains only fact-of-death
17 information specified in s. 69.18 (1m) (a), except that a requester may, upon request,

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1 obtain either a form that contains extended fact-of-death information specified in
2 s. 69.18 (1m) (b) or a copy that does not include the cause or manner of death.

3 (END)