

2003 SENATE BILL 196

AN ACT *to amend* 69.01 (6g), 69.18 (1) (c) and 69.18 (1) (d); and *to create* 69.01 (12g), 69.01 (12m) and 69.18 (1) (cm) of the statutes; **relating to:** authorizing a hospice nurse to make a pronouncement of death.

Analysis by the Legislative Reference Bureau

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

- 1 **SECTION 1.** 69.01 (6g) of the statutes is amended to read:
- 2 69.01 (**6g**) “Date of death” means the date that a person is pronounced dead by
- 3 a physician, coroner, deputy coroner, medical examiner, ~~or~~ deputy medical examiner,
- 4 or hospice nurse.
- 5 **SECTION 2.** 69.01 (12g) of the statutes is created to read:
- 6 69.01 (**12g**) “Hospice” has the meaning given in s. 50.90 (1).
- 7 **SECTION 3.** 69.01 (12m) of the statutes is created to read:

SENATE BILL 196**SECTION 3**

1 69.01 (12m) “Hospice nurse” means a registered nurse, as defined in s. 146.40
2 (1) (f), who is employed by or under contract to a hospice.

3 **SECTION 4.** 69.18 (1) (c) of the statutes is amended to read:

4 69.18 (1) (c) A hospital, a nursing home, as defined in s. 50.01 (3), or a hospice,
5 as defined in s. 50.90 (1), which that is the place of death of a person may prepare a
6 certificate of death for the person and give the certificate to the person who moves
7 the corpse under par. (a).

8 **SECTION 5.** 69.18 (1) (cm) of the statutes is created to read:

9 69.18 (1) (cm) 1. For purposes of preparation of the certificate of death and in
10 accordance with accepted medical standards, a hospice nurse in a hospice that is
11 directly involved with the care of a hospice patient who dies may pronounce the date,
12 time, and place of the patient’s death if all of the following apply:

13 a. The patient was generally under the care of a physician at the time of death.

14 b. The death was anticipated.

15 2. Subd. 1. may not be construed to authorize a hospice nurse to certify under
16 sub. (2) (b) the cause of the patient’s death.

17 **SECTION 6.** 69.18 (1) (d) of the statutes is amended to read:

18 69.18 (1) (d) A hospital, nursing home, or hospice, ~~as defined in s. 50.90 (1) (c),~~
19 may not release a corpse to any person under par. (a) unless the person presents a
20 notice of removal on a form prescribed by the state registrar, in duplicate, to the
21 administrator of the hospital, nursing home, or hospice. The administrator shall
22 retain one copy and forward the other copy to the local registrar of the registration
23 district in which the hospital, nursing home, or hospice is located.

24

(END)