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**SUBSTITUTE HOUSE BILL 2458**

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**State of Washington                      65th Legislature                      2018 Regular Session**

**By House Health Care & Wellness (originally sponsored by Representatives Hayes and Goodman)**

READ FIRST TIME 01/26/18.

1            AN ACT Relating to developing a short form for death  
2 certificates; and amending RCW 70.58.082.

3 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON:

4            **Sec. 1.** RCW 70.58.082 and 2005 c 365 s 152 are each amended to  
5 read as follows:

6            (1) No person may prepare or issue any vital record that purports  
7 to be an original, certified copy, or copy of a vital record except  
8 as authorized in this chapter.

9            (2) The department shall adopt rules providing for the release of  
10 paper or electronic copies of vital records that include adequate  
11 standards for security and confidentiality, ensure the proper record  
12 is identified, and prevent fraudulent use of records. All certified  
13 copies of vital records in the state must be on paper and in a format  
14 provided and approved by the department and must include security  
15 features to deter the alteration, counterfeiting, duplication, or  
16 simulation without ready detection.

17            (a) The department must establish rules regarding the content and  
18 release of an abbreviated death certificate that may be requested  
19 from a state or local registrar. The abbreviated death certificate  
20 must include identifying information and information related to the  
21 fact of death, but not include the following: (i) Information related

1 to the cause of the person's death; (ii) social security numbers; or  
2 (iii) names of the decedent's parents.

3 (b) In any instance in which a death certificate must be provided  
4 to a government agency and the cause of death is not material to the  
5 filing, an abbreviated death certificate may be used and a government  
6 agency must recognize the abbreviated death certificate as having the  
7 full effect of a complete death certificate.

8 (3) Federal, state, and local governmental agencies may, upon  
9 request and with submission of the appropriate fee, be furnished  
10 copies of vital records if the vital record will be used for the  
11 agencies' official duties. The department may enter into agreements  
12 with offices of vital statistics outside the state for the  
13 transmission of copies of vital records to those offices when the  
14 vital records relate to residents of those jurisdictions and receipt  
15 of copies of vital records from those offices. The agreement must  
16 specify the statistical and administrative purposes for which the  
17 vital records may be used and must provide instructions for the  
18 proper retention and disposition of the copies. Copies of vital  
19 records that are received by the department from other offices of  
20 vital statistics outside the state must be handled as provided under  
21 the agreements.

22 (4) The department may disclose information that may identify any  
23 person named in any birth certificate (~~{vital}~~) vital record for  
24 research purposes as provided under chapter 42.48 RCW.

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