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ENGROSSED SUBSTITUTE HOUSE BILL 1799

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State of Washington

66th Legislature

2019 Regular Session

By House Health Care & Wellness (originally sponsored by Representatives Hoff, Wylie, Corry, Sutherland, Vick, Paul, Smith, and Goodman)

READ FIRST TIME 02/22/19.

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)(a) The department shall adopt rules providing for the release  
10 of 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 (b) The state or local registrar may issue a short form  
18 certification of death that does not display information relating to  
19 cause and manner of death, names of the decedent's parents, or social  
20 security numbers to a qualified applicant. A qualified applicant for  
21 a short form certification of death includes any of the following:

1 (i) The decedent's spouse or domestic partner, child, parent,  
2 stepparent, stepchild, sibling, grandparent, great grandparent,  
3 grandchild, legal guardian immediately prior to death, legal  
4 representative, authorized representative, or next of kin as  
5 specified in RCW 11.28.120;

6 (ii) A funeral director, the funeral establishment licensed  
7 pursuant to chapter 18.39 RCW, or the person having the right to  
8 control the disposition of the human remains under RCW 68.50.160  
9 named on the death record, within twelve months of the date of death;

10 (iii) A title insurer or title insurance agent handling a  
11 transaction involving real property in which the decedent held some  
12 right, title, or interest; or

13 (iv) A person that demonstrates that the certified copy is  
14 necessary for a determination related to the death or the protection  
15 of a personal or property right related to the death.

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

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

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