

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE BILL

No. 1544 Session of
2011

INTRODUCED BY CHRISTIANA, CLYMER, COHEN, GINGRICH, GRELL,
M. K. KELLER, MOUL, O'NEILL, PICKETT, FARRY, DONATUCCI, GEIST
AND MURT, MAY 12, 2011

AS REPORTED FROM COMMITTEE ON HEALTH, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
AS AMENDED, JUNE 15, 2011

AN ACT

1 Amending the act of June 29, 1953 (P.L.304, No.66), entitled "An
2 act providing for the administration of a statewide system of
3 vital statistics; prescribing the functions of the State
4 Department of Health, the State Advisory Health Board and
5 local registrars; imposing duties upon coroners,
6 prothonotaries, clerks of orphans' court, physicians,
7 midwives and other persons; requiring reports and
8 certificates for the registration of vital statistics;
9 regulating the disposition of dead bodies; limiting the
10 disclosure of records; prescribing the sufficiency of vital
11 statistics records as evidence; prescribing fees and
12 penalties; and revising and consolidating the laws relating
13 thereto," ~~further~~ providing for ~~death~~ certificates OF DEATH ←
14 WITHOUT CAUSE OF DEATH LISTED.

15 The General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania
16 hereby enacts as follows:

17 ~~Section 1. Section 204 of the act of June 29, 1953 (P.L.304,~~ ←
18 ~~No.66), known as the Vital Statistics Law of 1953, is amended to~~
19 ~~read:~~

20 ~~Section 204. Department: Forms. The department shall~~
21 ~~prescribe the forms for all certificates required by this act.~~
22 ~~The department may prescribe all other forms necessary for~~
23 ~~collecting, transcribing, compiling and preserving vital~~

1 ~~statistics. The department shall include in such forms all~~
2 ~~standard items which contribute to a uniform comparable~~
3 ~~nationwide system of vital statistics. The department shall~~
4 ~~provide, upon the request of an individual, death certificates~~
5 ~~without the cause of death shown on the death certificate for~~
6 ~~any death registered through an electronic death registration~~
7 ~~system.~~

8 SECTION 1. THE ACT OF JUNE 29, 1953 (P.L.304, NO.66), KNOWN ←
9 AS THE VITAL STATISTICS LAW OF 1953, IS AMENDED BY ADDING A
10 SECTION TO READ:

11 SECTION 508. CERTIFICATE OF DEATH WITHOUT CAUSE OF DEATH
12 LISTED.--THE DEPARTMENT SHALL PROVIDE, UPON THE REQUEST OF AN
13 ELIGIBLE APPLICANT, A CERTIFICATE OF DEATH WITHOUT THE CAUSE OF
14 DEATH SHOWN ON THE CERTIFICATE OF DEATH FOR ANY DEATH REGISTERED
15 WITHIN THIS COMMONWEALTH.

16 Section 2. This act shall take effect June 30, 2012, or
17 immediately, whichever is later.