

SB 298 A STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

House Committee On Business and Labor

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Meeting Dates: 4/24, 5/6

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Allows employee or agent of a funeral home that is named in record of death or record of fetal death to request certified copy of record without time limitation. Expands list of people who may receive certified copy of death record containing cause and manner of death to include anyone who can receive certified copy of death record.

Minimal fiscal impact.

No revenue impact.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Probate process can exceed two years

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

No amendment.

BACKGROUND:

Employees or agents of a funeral home can request a death record for up to two years following the date of death if they are named in record. Family members and other parties can request a death record at any point following the date of death. Funeral homes often help clients to request death records of the deceased, but are unable to provide that service outside of the two-year statutory window.

Senate Bill 298-A removes the two-year window, allowing the employees or agents of a funeral home to request death records at any time following the date of death. The measure also allows anyone who can receive a certified copy of a death record to also receive a copy of the death record containing the cause and manner of death. This expansion allows employees or agents of a funeral home, siblings, grandparents, grandchildren, and the decedent's legal guardian or representative to the list of people who can request a certified copy of a death record containing the cause and manner of death.

Senate vote: 28-0

Senate Business and General Government: 5-0