

fees, if any collected, shall be paid into the treasury of the city where collected.

Passed the Senate February 12, 1945.

Passed the House March 5, 1945.

Approved by the Governor March 15, 1945.

CHAPTER 159.

[S. B. 24.]

REGISTRATION OF DEATHS AND STILLBIRTHS.

AN ACT relating to vital statistics and the registration of deaths and stillbirths; providing the procedure therefor; defining a stillbirth; providing the form of certificates; and procedure in cases of death without medical attendance; and repealing section 5, chapter 83, Laws of 1907, as amended by section 4, chapter 180, Laws of 1915 (section 6022, Remington's Revised Statutes, also Pierce's Perpetual Code 806-9); section 6, chapter 83, Laws of 1907, as amended by section 1, chapter 168, Laws of 1937 (section 6023, Remington's Revised Statutes, also Pierce's Perpetual Code 806-11); and section 7, chapter 83, Laws of 1907, as amended by section 5, chapter 180, Laws of 1915 (section 6024, Remington's Revised Statutes, also Pierce's Perpetual Code 806-13).

Be it enacted by the Legislature of the State of Washington:

SECTION 1. A certificate of every death or stillbirth shall be filed with the Local Registrar of the district in which the death or stillbirth occurred within three (3) days after the occurrence is known, or if the place of death or stillbirth is not known, then with the Local Registrar of the district in which the body is found within twenty-four (24) hours thereafter. In every instance a certificate shall be filed prior to the interment or other disposition of the body.

Registration
of deaths
and
stillbirths.

SEC. 2. The funeral director or person in charge of interment shall file the certificate of death or stillbirth. In preparing such certificate, the funeral director or person in charge of interment shall obtain

and enter on the certificate such personal data as the certificate requires from the person or persons best qualified to supply them. He shall present the certificate of death to the physician last in attendance upon the deceased, or, if the deceased died without medical attendance, to the health officer, Coroner or Prosecuting Attorney having jurisdiction, who shall thereupon certify the cause of death according to his best knowledge and belief. He shall present the certificate of stillbirth to the physician, midwife or other person in attendance at the stillbirth, who shall certify the stillbirth and such medical data pertaining thereto as he can furnish.

Duties of
Coroner and
Prosecuting
Attorney.

SEC. 3. If the death occurred without medical attendance, the funeral director or person in charge of interment shall notify the Coroner, or Prosecuting Attorney if there be no Coroner in the county. If the circumstances suggest that the death or stillbirth was caused by unlawful or unnatural causes or if there be no local health officer with jurisdiction, then the Coroner or Prosecuting Attorney shall complete and sign the certification, noting upon the certificate that no physician was in attendance at the time of death. If, after investigation, the Coroner or Prosecuting Attorney shall find that the death was not due to unlawful or unnatural causes, he shall refer the case to the local health officer or duly authorized deputy, who shall complete and sign the certificate, noting upon it that no physician was in attendance at the time of death.

SEC. 4. If the cause of death cannot be determined within three (3) days, the certification of its cause may be filed after the prescribed period, but the attending physician, Coroner, or Prosecuting Attorney shall give the Local Registrar of the district in which the death occurred written notice of the reason for the delay, in order that a permit for the disposition of the body may be issued if required.

SEC. 5. For the purposes of this act, a stillbirth means a birth after at least twenty (20) weeks of gestation in which the child shows no evidence of life after complete birth. The words "evidence of life" include heart action, breathing or movement of voluntary muscle.

Stillbirth
defined.

SEC. 6. The forms of certificate shall include as a minimum the items required by the respective standard certificates as recommended by the United States Bureau of the Census subject to approval of and modification by the Washington State Board of Health.

Certificate
require-
ments.

SEC. 7. Section 5, chapter 83, Laws of 1907, as amended by section 4, chapter 180, Laws of 1915 (section 6022, Remington's Revised Statutes, also Pierce's Perpetual Code 806-9); section 6, chapter 83, Laws of 1907, as amended by section 1, chapter 168, Laws of 1937 (section 6023, Remington's Revised Statutes, also Pierce's Perpetual Code 806-11); and section 7, chapter 83, Laws of 1907, as amended by section 5, chapter 180, Laws of 1915 (section 6024, Remington's Revised Statutes, also Pierce's Perpetual Code 806-13) are hereby repealed.

Acts
repealed.

Passed the Senate February 12, 1945.

Passed the House March 5, 1945.

Approved by the Governor March 15, 1945.