

1 SB208
2 180635-1
3 By Senator Shelnutt
4 RFD: Health and Human Services
5 First Read: 16-FEB-17

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8 SYNOPSIS: Under existing law, there is no requirement
9 that a death certificate include the decedent's
10 Social Security number.

11 This bill would require a death certificate
12 to include the last four digits of the decedent's
13 Social Security number, if known.

14
15 A BILL
16 TO BE ENTITLED
17 AN ACT

18
19 Relating to death certificates; to amend Section
20 22-9A-14, Code of Alabama 1975, to require a death certificate
21 to include the last four digits of the decedent's Social
22 Security number, if known.

23 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA:

24 Section 1. Section 22-9A-14, Code of Alabama 1975,
25 is amended to read as follows:

26 "§22-9A-14.

1 "(a) A certificate of death for each death which
2 occurs in this state shall be filed with the Office of Vital
3 Statistics, or as otherwise directed by the State Registrar,
4 within five days of the death and shall be registered if it
5 has been completed and filed in accordance with this section.

6 "(1) If the place of death is not known, but the
7 dead body is found in this state, the certificate of death
8 shall be completed and filed in accordance with this section.
9 The county where the body is found shall be shown on the
10 certificate as the county of death. If the date of death is
11 unknown, the date the dead body was found shall be shown on
12 the certificate as the date of death.

13 "(2) When death occurs in a moving conveyance in the
14 United States and the body is first removed from the
15 conveyance in this state, the death shall be registered in
16 this state and the county where it is first removed shall be
17 considered as the county of death. When a death occurs on a
18 moving conveyance while in international waters or air space
19 or in a foreign country and the body is first removed from the
20 conveyance in this state, the death shall be registered in
21 this state but the certificate shall show the actual place of
22 death if it can be determined.

23 "(b) The funeral director or person acting as the
24 funeral director who first assumes custody of the dead body
25 shall file the certificate of death. He or she shall obtain
26 the personal and statistical data from the next of kin or the
27 best qualified person or source available and shall forward

1 the certificate to the person responsible for completion of
2 the medical certification.

3 "(c) The physician in charge of the care of the
4 patient for the illness or condition that resulted in death
5 shall complete and sign the medical certification and transmit
6 the certificate to the Office of Vital Statistics in the
7 manner directed by the State Registrar, within 48 hours after
8 receipt of the certificate. In the absence of the physician,
9 the certificate may be completed and signed by another
10 physician designated by the physician, or the certificate may
11 be completed and signed by the chief medical officer of the
12 institution in which death occurred or by the physician who
13 performed an autopsy upon the decedent. Deaths required to be
14 reported to the county medical examiner or coroner shall be
15 reported whether the cause is known or suspected, primary or
16 contributory, or recent, delayed, or remote.

17 "(d) When the death occurs with no physician in
18 charge of the care of the patient for the illness or condition
19 that resulted in death, the county medical examiner, if one
20 has been appointed, the State Medical Examiner, if he or she
21 examines the body, or if neither occurs, the coroner shall
22 determine the cause of death. In all cases, the medical
23 certification shall be completed and signed and the
24 certificate forwarded to the Office of Vital Statistics, or as
25 otherwise directed by the State Registrar, within 48 hours
26 after receipt of the certificate. This section shall not
27 diminish the duty of the Coroner to hold inquests.

1 "(e) If the cause of death cannot be determined
2 within 48 hours after receipt of the certificate, the
3 physician, county medical examiner, state medical examiner, or
4 coroner shall indicate the medical certification as "PENDING"
5 and shall sign the certificate. Immediately after the medical
6 or other data necessary for determining the cause of death
7 have been made known, the physician, county medical examiner,
8 state medical examiner, or coroner shall, over his or her
9 signature, forward the cause of death to the State Registrar.
10 If the physician has reason to believe that the case is within
11 the jurisdiction of the county medical examiner or coroner, he
12 or she shall immediately report the case to the county medical
13 examiner or coroner and shall advise the funeral director of
14 this fact. If the county medical examiner or coroner does not
15 assume jurisdiction, the physician shall sign the medical
16 certification.

17 "(f) When a death occurs in an institution and the
18 death is not under the jurisdiction of the county medical
19 examiner or coroner, the person in charge of the institution
20 or his or her designated representative, shall initiate the
21 preparation of the death certificate within 24 hours of death
22 as follows:

23 "(1) The full name of the decedent and the date of
24 death shall be placed on the death certificate in the
25 designated spot.

1 "(2) The medical certification of death and the
2 signature of the physician shall be obtained from the
3 attending physician.

4 "(3) The partially completed death certificate shall
5 be presented to the funeral director or the person acting as
6 the funeral director within 72 hours of death.

7 "(g) When a death is presumed to have occurred in
8 this state but the body cannot be located, a death certificate
9 may be prepared by the State Registrar upon receipt of an
10 order of a court of competent jurisdiction, that shall include
11 the finding of facts required to complete the death
12 certificate. The death certificate shall be marked
13 "PRESUMPTIVE" and shall show on its face the date of
14 registration and shall identify the court and date of decree.

15 "(h) A certificate of death filed with the Office of
16 Vital Statistics shall include the last four digits of the
17 decedent's Social Security number, if known."

18 Section 2. This act shall become effective on the
19 first day of the third month following its passage and
20 approval by the Governor, or its otherwise becoming law.