

HOUSE BILL NO. 1481

Introduced by

Representatives Severson, Devlin, Froseth

Senator Espegard

1 A BILL for an Act to amend and reenact subsections 4 and 6 of section 23-02.1-19 and
2 subsections 3 and 5 of section 23-02.1-20 of the North Dakota Century Code, relating to the
3 signing of death certificates by a nurse practitioner.

4 **BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF NORTH DAKOTA:**

5 **SECTION 1. AMENDMENT.** Subsections 4 and 6 of section 23-02.1-19 of the North
6 Dakota Century Code are amended and reenacted as follows:

7 4. The medical certification must be completed and signed within fifteen days after
8 death by the physician or nurse practitioner in charge of the patient's care for the
9 illness or condition which resulted in death except when inquiry is required by the
10 local health officer or coroner.

11 6. If the cause of death cannot be determined within fifteen days after death, the
12 medical certification may be filed after the prescribed period, in accordance with
13 rules adopted by the state department of health. The attending physician, nurse
14 practitioner, or coroner shall give the funeral director in custody of the body notice
15 of the reason for the delay and final disposition may not be made until authorized
16 by the attending physician, nurse practitioner, or coroner.

17 **SECTION 2. AMENDMENT.** Subsections 3 and 5 of section 23-02.1-20 of the North
18 Dakota Century Code are amended and reenacted as follows:

19 3. The medical certification must be completed and signed by the physician or a
20 nurse practitioner in attendance at the delivery within fifteen days after the delivery
21 except when inquiry is required by the local health officer or coroner.

22 5. If the cause of fetal death cannot be determined within fifteen days after death, the
23 medical certification may be filed after the prescribed period of time in accordance
24 with rules adopted by the state department of health. The attending physician,

1 nurse practitioner, or coroner shall give the funeral director in custody of the fetus
2 the notice of the reason for the delay and final disposition may not be made until
3 authorized by the attending physician, nurse practitioner, or coroner.