

**Fifty-eighth Legislative Assembly of North Dakota
In Regular Session Commencing Tuesday, January 7, 2003**

HOUSE BILL NO. 1481
(Representatives Severson, Devlin, Froseth)
(Senator Espegard)

AN ACT to amend and reenact subsections 4 and 6 of section 23-02.1-19 and subsections 3 and 5 of section 23-02.1-20 of the North Dakota Century Code, relating to the signing of death certificates by a nurse practitioner.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF NORTH DAKOTA:

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

4. The medical certification must be completed and signed within fifteen days after death by the physician or nurse practitioner in charge of the patient's care for the illness or condition which resulted in death except when inquiry is required by the local health officer or coroner.
6. If the cause of death cannot be determined within fifteen days after death, the medical certification may be filed after the prescribed period, in accordance with rules adopted by the state department of health. The attending physician, nurse practitioner, or coroner shall give the funeral director in custody of the body notice of the reason for the delay and final disposition may not be made until authorized by the attending physician, nurse practitioner, or coroner.

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

3. The medical certification must be completed and signed by the physician or a nurse practitioner in attendance at the delivery within fifteen days after the delivery except when inquiry is required by the local health officer or coroner.
5. If the cause of fetal death cannot be determined within fifteen days after death, the medical certification may be filed after the prescribed period of time in accordance with rules adopted by the state department of health. The attending physician, nurse practitioner, or coroner shall give the funeral director in custody of the fetus the notice of the reason for the delay and final disposition may not be made until authorized by the attending physician, nurse practitioner, or coroner.

Speaker of the House

President of the Senate

Chief Clerk of the House

Secretary of the Senate

This certifies that the within bill originated in the House of Representatives of the Fifty-eighth Legislative Assembly of North Dakota and is known on the records of that body as House Bill No. 1481.

House Vote: Yeas 87 Nays 4 Absent 3

Senate Vote: Yeas 27 Nays 19 Absent 1

Chief Clerk of the House

Received by the Governor at _____ M. on _____, 2003.

Approved at _____ M. on _____, 2003.

Governor

Filed in this office this _____ day of _____, 2003,

at _____ o'clock _____ M.

Secretary of State