
DIGEST

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Burford

HB No. 403

Abstract: Authorizes issuance of certificates of stillbirth in certain instances and provides for hospital policies concerning disposition of fetal remains.

Present law defines "spontaneous fetal death" and "stillbirth" as the expulsion or extraction of a product of human conception resulting in other than a live birth and when the expulsion or extraction is not the result of an induced termination of pregnancy, without reference to gestational age or weight of the fetus.

Present law requires the state registrar of vital records to establish a certificate of stillbirth on an approved form for each spontaneous fetal death which occurs in this state after 20 complete weeks of gestation or more or a weight of 350 grams or more. Proposed law authorizes issuance of this form for other instances of spontaneous fetal death when requested by a parent of a stillborn child.

Proposed law requires that every licensed hospital, maternity home, and other licensed health facility providing medical care adopt written policies and inform parents regarding their options for disposition or taking of fetal remains in an event of a spontaneous fetal death.

(Amends R.S. 40:32(16) and 92(A); Adds R.S. 40:2017.13)