



# Senate Public Health and Welfare Committee

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## Summary SB 1351 PN 1873

Senate Bill 1351 amends the Vital Statistics Law of 1953 to permit certified registered nurse practitioners to act within their scope of practice for the purpose of filing the medical certification for a death or fetal death registration.

### Background

Certified registered nurse practitioners are registered nurses who have advanced education and clinical preparation to provide primary care and diagnose and treat acute and chronic illnesses in a variety of specialties. Within their scope of practice, they are empowered to pronounce death, ascertain the cause of death and provide the medical information required by the death certificate. However, the Vital Statistics law only permits physicians, dentists, and coroners to sign the certificate.

Families, funeral directors, and facility administrators sometimes find it burdensome to get the necessary information from these busy individuals. This legislation is meant to ease that burden by expanding the authorization under the law to another qualified class of professionals and to allow certified registered nurse practitioners to act within the full scope of their practice.

### Effective Date

This act shall take effect in 60 days.

### Amendment A09273

This amendment ensures that local registrars remain available to transmit death certificates until one year after the implementation of the Department of Health's electronic death reporting system. Registrars are required to transmit the original certificates to the department within 90 days of the date of issuance.

Additionally, in order to eliminate confusion, a clearly shaded set-off area is required on the certificate form for the medical certification.