

1-1 By: Turner of Dallas, Oliverson, Guerra H.B. No. 1011
 1-2 (Senate Sponsor - Zaffirini)
 1-3 (In the Senate - Received from the House April 12, 2021;
 1-4 April 19, 2021, read first time and referred to Committee on Health
 1-5 & Human Services; May 13, 2021, reported favorably by the following
 1-6 vote: Yeas 9, Nays 0; May 13, 2021, sent to printer.)

1-7 COMMITTEE VOTE

	Yea	Nay	Absent	PNV
1-8				
1-9	X			
1-10	X			
1-11	X			
1-12	X			
1-13	X			
1-14	X			
1-15	X			
1-16	X			
1-17	X			

1-18 A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
 1-19 AN ACT

1-20 relating to expedited death certificates for religious purposes in
 1-21 certain counties.

1-22 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

1-23 SECTION 1. Chapter 193, Health and Safety Code, is amended
 1-24 by adding Section 193.0025 to read as follows:

1-25 Sec. 193.0025. EXPEDITED DEATH CERTIFICATES FOR RELIGIOUS
 1-26 PURPOSES IN CERTAIN COUNTIES. (a) This section applies only to a
 1-27 county:

1-28 (1) with an office of medical examiner established in
 1-29 accordance with Section 1, Article 49.25, Code of Criminal
 1-30 Procedure; and

1-31 (2) for which the commissioners court of the county by
 1-32 resolution elects for this section to apply.

1-33 (b) This section does not apply to a county that entered
 1-34 into an agreement with another county to create a medical examiners
 1-35 district under Section 1-a, Article 49.25, Code of Criminal
 1-36 Procedure, unless:

1-37 (1) the office of medical examiner is located in the
 1-38 county and the county has adopted a resolution described by
 1-39 Subsection (a)(2); or

1-40 (2) notwithstanding Subsection (a), the county elects
 1-41 for this section to apply in the agreement creating the district.

1-42 (c) An individual may submit to the person required to file
 1-43 a death certificate under Section 193.002 a written request for the
 1-44 person to expedite the completion of a decedent's death certificate
 1-45 if the requestor demonstrates that:

1-46 (1) the expedited completion is necessary for
 1-47 religious purposes;

1-48 (2) the decedent's remains will be interred, entombed,
 1-49 buried, cremated, or otherwise laid to rest in a foreign country;
 1-50 and

1-51 (3) the requestor is authorized to obtain a copy of the
 1-52 death certificate.

1-53 (d) A person who receives a request under Subsection (c)
 1-54 shall issue a copy of the decedent's death certificate to the
 1-55 requestor not later than 48 hours after the time the person receives
 1-56 the request unless an inquest will be conducted for the decedent.

1-57 (e) For purposes of completing an expedited death
 1-58 certificate under this section, a medical examiner may:

1-59 (1) perform a medical examination; and

1-60 (2) complete the medical certification, provided:

1-61 (A) the medical examiner has access to the

2-1 decedent's medical history relevant to the death;

2-2 (B) the decedent's death is due to natural
2-3 causes; and

2-4 (C) the medical examiner serves as medical
2-5 examiner of the county in which the death occurred.

2-6 (f) The executive commissioner shall adopt rules necessary
2-7 to implement this section.

2-8 SECTION 2. As soon as practicable after the effective date
2-9 of this Act, the executive commissioner of the Health and Human
2-10 Services Commission shall adopt rules necessary to implement
2-11 Section 193.0025, Health and Safety Code, as added by this Act.

2-12 SECTION 3. This Act takes effect September 1, 2021.

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