

1-1 By: Kolkhorst S.B. No. 545  
1-2 (In the Senate - Filed January 23, 2023; February 17, 2023,  
1-3 read first time and referred to Committee on Health & Human  
1-4 Services; March 13, 2023, reported favorably by the following  
1-5 vote: Yeas 9, Nays 0; March 13, 2023, sent to printer.)

1-6 COMMITTEE VOTE

	Yea	Nay	Absent	PNV
1-7				
1-8	X			
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 A BILL TO BE ENTITLED  
1-18 AN ACT

1-19 relating to death records maintained and provided by the vital  
1-20 statistics unit of the Department of State Health Services.

1-21 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

1-22 SECTION 1. Subchapter A, Chapter 191, Health and Safety  
1-23 Code, is amended by adding Section 191.011 to read as follows:

1-24 Sec. 191.011. DEATH INFORMATION PROVIDED TO SECRETARY OF  
1-25 STATE. (a) The department shall implement an efficient and  
1-26 effective method to provide death information to the secretary of  
1-27 state to assist in maintaining the statewide computerized voter  
1-28 registration list under Section 18.061, Election Code.

1-29 (b) The method implemented under Subsection (a) must  
1-30 provide at least the following information on each deceased person  
1-31 for whom a death certificate is filed with a local registrar in this  
1-32 state:

1-33 (1) the county of residence of the deceased;

1-34 (2) the date of birth of the deceased; and

1-35 (3) the full name of the deceased.

1-36 (c) The department shall enter into a memorandum of  
1-37 understanding with the secretary of state to implement this  
1-38 section. The memorandum of understanding must include a mechanism  
1-39 for the department to provide the secretary of state with death  
1-40 information that includes unique identifiers necessary to  
1-41 accurately match death records with names included on the voter  
1-42 registration list.

1-43 SECTION 2. Section 193.001, Health and Safety Code, is  
1-44 amended by adding Subsection (c-1) to read as follows:

1-45 (c-1) The department shall require death certificates to  
1-46 include the county where the decedent died and the decedent's  
1-47 county of last legal residence.

1-48 SECTION 3. Section 16.001(c), Election Code, is amended to  
1-49 read as follows:

1-50 (c) Once each week, on a day specified by the secretary of  
1-51 state, the vital statistics unit [~~Bureau of Vital Statistics~~] shall  
1-52 furnish to the secretary of state available information [~~specified~~  
1-53 by the secretary] relating to deceased residents of the state as  
1-54 provided by Section 191.011, Health and Safety Code, in the form and  
1-55 manner specified by the secretary. Periodically, the secretary  
1-56 shall furnish to the appropriate voter registrars information  
1-57 obtained from the unit [~~bureau~~] that will assist in identifying the  
1-58 deceased registered voters of each county.

1-59 SECTION 4. This Act takes effect September 1, 2023.

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