



State of Wisconsin
2023 - 2024 LEGISLATURE

LRB-0523/P2
SWB:wlj

PRELIMINARY DRAFT - NOT READY FOR INTRODUCTION

1 **AN ACT** *to create* 69.18 (2) (g) of the statutes; **relating to:** requiring use of the
2 electronic statewide vital records information system.

Analysis by the Legislative Reference Bureau

This bill is explained in the NOTES provided by the Joint Legislative Council in the bill.

The people of the state of Wisconsin, represented in senate and assembly, do enact as follows:

JOINT LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL PREFATORY NOTE: This bill was prepared for the Joint Legislative Council Study Committee on Uniform Death Reporting Standards.

Current law requires the Department of Health Services (DHS) to establish an Office of Vital Records and appoint a state registrar who, among other duties, directs the system of vital records. DHS currently uses an electronic system of vital records.

Current law requires that a death record be filed by certain parties identified in statute, a function most commonly fulfilled by a funeral director. The filing party must obtain certain factual information for the death record and then, within 24 hours of being notified of a death, present the record to the appropriate person for completion of the medical certification, a portion of the death record providing cause-of-death and other information. Depending on the circumstances of the death, the medical certification may be completed and signed by a medical examiner, coroner, physician, or other specified medical professionals with access to a decedent's medical history. Once medically certified, the death record is returned to the funeral director, who then submits the death record to the local vital records office for registration with DHS's Office of Vital Records.

Under current practice, the electronic system of vital records is widely used by funeral directors, medical examiners, and coroners, and less commonly used by other

