

CONCURRENCE IN SENATE AMENDMENTS

CSA1 Bill Id:AB 583 Author:(Pellerin)

As Amended Ver:July 17, 2025

Majority vote

SUMMARY

Expands authorization to complete and attest to the medical and health section and time of death on a death certificate to a nurse practitioner (NP) last in attendance. Requires an NP to notify the coroner when they have knowledge of a death under certain specified circumstances.

Senate Amendments

- 1) Delay implementation of the bill to July 1, 2026.
- 2) Change the reference from "licensed NP" to "NP" to align with the Nurse Practitioner Act.
- 3) Add NPs to the list of individuals authorized in statute to attest to fetal death records.

COMMENTS

Background on death certificates. California death certificates are official documents that legally establish the occurrence of death and record the details surrounding an individual's death within the state. According to CA.gov, a certified copy of a death certificate can typically be used to obtain death benefits, claim insurance proceeds, notify social security, and other legal purposes.

NP Scope of Practice. AB 890 (Wood), Chapter 265, Statutes of 2020 authorized NPs to work independently of physician supervision and therefore increase access to care. Generally, state law requires the medical and health section data portion of the death certificate, as well as the signature and certification in the portion of the death certificate establishing the occurrence of the death to be completed by the physician and surgeon last in attendance. This bill allows a licensed NP to complete the medical and health section data and to certify and sign the certificate of death.

Other States. According to information provided by the American Association of Nurse Practitioners, 40 states plus Washington D.C. allow NPs to sign death certificates, and an additional two states (Florida and New Jersey) allow NPs to sign death certificates in certain circumstances.

According to the Author

According to the author, this bill is personal. The author's family was unable to have a proper funeral for the author's father when he passed because of the delay in obtaining his death certificate. As such, the author's family had a celebration of life, without his body and without his ashes. The author continues that a death certificate is required for various legal purposes. The author notes that this includes filing life insurance claims, closing bank accounts, and transferring property ownership. The author further notes that a grieving family is unable to plan a funeral without a death certificate. The author continues that California is one of a handful of states that bars NPs from being able to sign the death certificate of a patient they have cared for until their passing. The author states that current law only allows physicians to sign death certificates, even though they may have never cared for or seen the patient. The author concludes

that this bill will allow an NP to carry out the duties related to death registration and death certificate signatures.

Arguments in Support

According to the California Association of Nurse Practitioners (CANP), in many settings, NPs are the primary providers that care for a patient prior to their death, yet they do not have authority to sign off on death certificates or perform duties related to death registration. These duties are left largely to physicians, who oftentimes have never cared or seen the patient prior to their death. CANP continues that obtaining a physician's signature can take weeks, compounding the grief families are navigating and delaying the opportunity to make funeral arrangements and handle other legal matters such as filing insurance claims, closing bank accounts, or accessing federal veteran benefits. CANP continues that this bill would remedy this problem by adding NPs to the list of authorized practitioners and providers who may perform duties of death registration and signing death certificates. CANP concludes that this bill will have positive outcomes for a deceased patient's families and loved ones by expediting the process of receiving a death certificate, thus allowing arrangements and legal matters to be handled.

Arguments in Opposition

None.

FISCAL COMMENTS

According to the Senate Appropriations Committee, pursuant to Senate Rule 28.8, negligible state costs.

VOTES:

ASM HEALTH: 15-0-0

YES: Bonta, Chen, Addis, Aguiar-Curry, Arambula, Carrillo, Flora, Mark González, Krell, Patel, Celeste Rodriguez, Sanchez, Schiavo, Sharp-Collins, Stefani

ASM APPROPRIATIONS: 15-0-0

YES: Wicks, Sanchez, Arambula, Calderon, Caloza, Dixon, Elhawary, Fong, Mark González, Hart, Pacheco, Pellerin, Solache, Ta, Tangipa

ASSEMBLY FLOOR: 72-0-7

YES: Addis, Aguiar-Curry, Ahrens, Alanis, Alvarez, Ávila Farías, Bains, Bauer-Kahan, Bennett, Berman, Bonta, Bryan, Calderon, Caloza, Carrillo, Castillo, Chen, Connolly, Davies, DeMaio, Dixon, Elhawary, Flora, Fong, Gabriel, Gallagher, Gipson, Mark González, Hadwick, Haney, Harabedian, Hart, Hoover, Jackson, Kalra, Krell, Lackey, Lee, Lowenthal, Macedo, McKinnor, Muratsuchi, Nguyen, Ortega, Pacheco, Papan, Patel, Patterson, Pellerin, Petrie-Norris, Quirk-Silva, Ramos, Ransom, Michelle Rodriguez, Rogers, Blanca Rubio, Sanchez, Schiavo, Schultz, Sharp-Collins, Solache, Soria, Stefani, Ta, Tangipa, Valencia, Wallis, Ward, Wicks, Wilson, Zbur, Rivas

ABS, ABST OR NV: Arambula, Boerner, Ellis, Garcia, Jeff Gonzalez, Irwin, Celeste Rodriguez

SENATE FLOOR: 40-0-0

YES: Allen, Alvarado-Gil, Archuleta, Arreguín, Ashby, Becker, Blakespear, Cabaldon, Caballero, Cervantes, Choi, Cortese, Dahle, Durazo, Gonzalez, Grayson, Grove, Hurtado, Jones, Laird, Limón, McGuire, McNerney, Menjivar, Niello, Ochoa Bogh, Padilla, Pérez, Reyes, Richardson, Rubio, Seyarto, Smallwood-Cuevas, Stern, Strickland, Umberg, Valladares, Wahab, Weber Pierson, Wiener

UPDATED

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