

HB 25-1082: QUALIFIED INDIVIDUALS DEATH CERTIFICATES

Prime Sponsors:

Rep. Weinberg; Brown

Sen. Pelton R.; Michaelson Jenet

Bill Outcome: Signed into Law **Drafting number:** LLS 25-0259

Fiscal note status: This final fiscal note reflects the enacted bill.

Fiscal Analyst:

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Version: Final Fiscal Note **Date:** June 30, 2025

Summary Information

Overview. The bill expands the types of professionals who may complete a death certificate to include physician assistants and advanced practice registered nurses.

Types of impacts. The bill is projected to affect the following areas in FY 2025-26 only:

State Expenditures

Appropriations. For FY 2025-26, the bill requires and includes an appropriation of \$25,000 to the Department of Public Health and Environment.

Table 1 State Fiscal Impacts

	Budget Year	Out Year
Type of Impact	FY 2025-26	FY 2026-27
State Revenue	\$0	\$0
State Expenditures (Cash Funds)	\$25,000	\$0
Transferred Funds	\$0	\$0
Change in TABOR Refunds	\$0	\$0
Change in State FTE	0.0 FTE	0.0 FTE

Summary of Legislation

Current law permits coroners, medical examiners, forensic pathologists, and other "qualified individuals" to determine a cause of death and complete a certificate of death. Under state rules, "qualified individuals" include a physician or Chief Medical Officer of the institution where the death occurred. The bill expands the definition of "qualified individuals" to include physician assistants and advanced practice registered nurses, in addition to physicians and the Chief Medical Officers. It also requires these individuals to review training materials and register with the electronic death registration system prior to signing a medical certificate of death.

Background

The Vital Records Office in the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment (CDPHE) is responsible for collecting data and verifying the accuracy of the registration of qualifying events, including births and deaths. Upon determination of a cause of death, qualified individuals complete and sign the medical certification and file it in the electronic death registration system used by the office.

State Expenditures

The bill increases state expenditures in CDPHE by \$25,000 in FY 2025-26, paid from the Vital Statistics Records Cash Fund. This one-time cost is for the CDPHE to contract with a vendor to modify its electronic death registration system and add physician assistants and advanced nurse practitioners to the database. Actual costs will be determined through the contracting process.

Effective Date

The bill was signed into law by the Governor on June 4, 2025, and takes effect on August 6, 2025, assuming no referendum petition is filed.

State Appropriations

For FY 2025-26, the bill requires and includes an appropriation of \$25,000 from the Vital Statistics Records Cash Fund to the Department of Public Health and Environment.

State and Local Government Contacts

County Coroners

Public Health and Environment

Law