

**Local Government Mandate Statement
Kentucky Legislative Research Commission
2024 Regular Session**

Part I: Measure Information

Bill Request #: 954

Bill #: SB 17 GA

Document ID #: 3327

Bill Title: AN ACT relating to certificates of death.

Sponsor: Senator Matthew Deneen

Unit of Government: City County Urban-County
 Charter County Consolidated Local Unified Local
Government

Office(s) Impacted: Coroners

Requirement: Mandatory Optional

Effect on Powers & Duties: Modifies Existing Adds New Eliminates Existing

Part II: Bill Provisions and the Estimated Fiscal Impact Relating to Local Government

SB 17 would amend KRS 213.076 to provide that a medical certification shall be completed by a coroner within five days after receiving the results of the inquiry when inquiry is required by KRS 72.400 to 72.475 or when the cause of death is unknown or under investigation.

Current law dictates that coroners must mark the death certificate as unknown or under investigation until the results of the inquiry are released. When the results are released, coroners are required to file a separate supplemental report within five days which amends the certificate to reflect the results of the inquiry.

SB 17 would allow for coroners to wait until after receiving results of the inquiry to complete the certificate of death which eliminates the supplemental amendment process.

SB 17 is expected to have a positive impact on coroners by eliminating a duplicative process in cases where an inquiry is required, cause of death is unknown, or cause of death is under investigation

According to the Kentucky Coroners Association, the medical certifier of a death certificate is required to sign the certificate within 5 days of receiving it from the funeral home. On many occasions, the coroner has not received the necessary reports to accurately sign the certificate, such as toxicology, Medical Examiners, and other information. Therefore, the certificate must be signed out as pending for the matter of death. Then, after receiving all the necessary reports the coroner must go back and remove the status of pending to the correct matter of death. SB 17 will eliminate one complete process which ultimately saves coroners a significant amount of time.

Data Source(s): Kentucky Coroner's Association; LRC Staff

Preparer: Jacob Blevins (LG) **Reviewer:** KHC **Date:** 1/17/24