

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA
SESSION 2021

H.B. 102
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HOUSE PRINCIPAL CLERK

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HOUSE BILL DRH10019-CE-1

Short Title: Clarify Cause of Death. (Public)

Sponsors: Representative Clampitt.

Referred to:

1 A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
2 AN ACT TO CLARIFY THE CAUSE OF DEATH LISTED IN A MEDICAL EXAMINER'S
3 REPORT AND TO BRING REPORTING IN LINE WITH CHANGES TO THE MOTOR
4 VEHICLE CODE.

5 The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

6 **SECTION 1.** G.S. 130A-383(a) reads as rewritten:

7 "(a) Upon the death of any person resulting from violence, poisoning, motor vehicle crash,
8 accident, suicide or homicide; occurring suddenly when the deceased had been in apparent good
9 health or when unattended by a physician; occurring in a jail, prison, correctional institution or
10 in police custody; occurring in State facilities operated in accordance with Part 5 of Article 4 of
11 Chapter 122C of the General Statutes; occurring pursuant to Article 19 of Chapter 15 of the
12 General Statutes; or occurring under any suspicious, unusual or unnatural circumstance, the
13 medical examiner of the county in which the body of the deceased is found shall be notified by
14 a physician in attendance, hospital employee, law-enforcement officer, funeral home employee,
15 emergency medical technician, relative or by any other person having suspicion of such a death.
16 No person shall disturb the body at the scene of such a death until authorized by the medical
17 examiner unless in the unavailability of the medical examiner it is determined by the appropriate
18 law enforcement agency that the presence of the body at the scene would risk the integrity of the
19 body or provide a hazard to the safety of others. For the limited purposes of this Part, expression
20 of opinion that death has occurred may be made by a nurse, an emergency medical technician or
21 any other competent person in the absence of a physician."

22 **SECTION 2.** G.S. 130A-385(b) reads as rewritten:

23 "(b) The medical examiner shall complete a certificate of death, stating the name of the
24 disease which in his opinion caused death. If the death was from external causes, the medical
25 examiner shall state on the certificate of death the means of death, and whether, in the medical
26 examiner's opinion, the manner of death was a motor vehicle crash, an accident, a suicide, a
27 homicide, an execution by the State, or undetermined. The medical examiner shall also furnish
28 any information as may be required by the State Registrar of Vital Statistics in order to properly
29 classify the death."

30 **SECTION 3.** This act becomes effective October 1, 2021, and applies to all deaths
31 occurring on or after that date.

