

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA

SESSION 1999

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HOUSE BILL 957
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Short Title: Phys. Signature Cert./Death Records.

(Public)

Sponsors: Representatives Edwards; and Mosley.

Referred to: Public Health.

April 8, 1999

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

1 AN ACT TO PROVIDE THAT AN ELECTRONIC OR FACSIMILE SIGNATURE OF
2 A PHYSICIAN PROVIDING MEDICAL CERTIFICATION OF DEATH IS
3 ACCEPTABLE IF APPROVED BY THE STATE REGISTRAR OF VITAL
4 STATISTICS.
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6 The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

7 Section 1. G.S. 130A-115(c) reads as rewritten:

8 "(c) The medical certification shall be completed and signed by the physician in
9 charge of the patient's care for the illness or condition which resulted in death, except
10 when the death falls within the circumstances described in G.S. 130A-383. In the absence
11 of the physician or with the physician's approval, the certificate may be completed and
12 signed by an associate physician, the chief medical officer of the hospital or facility in
13 which the death occurred or a physician who performed an autopsy upon the decedent
14 under the following circumstances: the individual has access to the medical history of the
15 deceased; the individual has viewed the deceased at or after death; and the death is due to
16 natural causes. When specifically approved by the State Registrar, an electronic signature
17 or facsimile signature of the physician shall be acceptable. As used in this section, the
18 term electronic signature has the same meaning as applies in G.S. 66-58.2. The physician
19 shall state the cause of death on the certificate in definite and precise terms. A certificate

1 containing any indefinite terms or denoting only symptoms of disease or conditions
2 resulting from disease as defined by the State Registrar, shall be returned to the person
3 making the medical certification for correction and more definite statement."

4 Section 2. This act is effective when it becomes law.