

**Assembly Bill No. 2550**

**CHAPTER 857**

An act to add Sections 102778 and 103692 to the Health and Safety Code, relating to death registration.

[Approved by Governor September 25, 2002. Filed with Secretary of State September 25, 2002.]

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AB 2550, Nation. Electronic death registration.

Existing law requires that each death shall be registered with the local registrar of births and deaths in the district in which the death was officially pronounced or the body was found, within 8 calendar days after death and prior to any disposition of the human remains.

Existing law provides that the State Department of Health Services is charged with the uniform and thorough enforcement of those provisions relating to the registration of certain vital statistics and provides that the State Director of Health Services is the State Registrar of Vital Statistics, who shall have supervisory powers over local registrars.

Existing law authorizes the State Registrar of Vital Statistics to incorporate computer or telephone facsimile technology, or both, in the statewide program of death and fetal death registration.

This bill would require the State Department of Health Services to implement an Internet-based electronic death registration system on or before January 1, 2005.

Existing law imposes a fee on applicants for the issuance of a permit for the disposition of human remains to be paid to the local registrar of births and deaths. A portion of this fee is paid to the State Registrar.

This bill would impose an additional fee for the issuance of the permit and would require the local registrar of births and deaths to pay these fees to the State Registrar by a specified date. The bill would require the funds derived from these fees, upon appropriation by the Legislature, to be used by the State Registrar to implement and maintain the electronic death registration system required by this bill.

*The people of the State of California do enact as follows:*

SECTION 1. Section 102778 is added to the Health and Safety Code, to read:



102778. (a) On or before January 1, 2005, the department shall implement an Internet-based electronic death registration system for the creation, storage, and transfer of death registration information.

(b) The electronic death registration system implemented pursuant to this section shall protect the proper use of the death registration information created, stored, and transferred within the system.

(c) The electronic death registration system that is implemented pursuant to this section shall be subject to any limitation placed on the accessibility and release of personally identifying information contained in those death records by any other provision of law or subsequently enacted legislation.

SEC. 2. Section 103692 is added to the Health and Safety Code, to read:

103692. (a) (1) Commencing January 1, 2003, in addition to the fees prescribed by Section 103065 and by Sections 103675 to 103685, inclusive, an applicant for a permit for the disposition of human remains shall pay a fee of six dollars (\$6) to the local registrar of births and deaths.

(2) The fee imposed by paragraph (1) shall remain in effect until January 1, 2005, and as of that date, shall be reduced to four dollars (\$4).

(3) The fee established by this subdivision shall be exempt from any adjustment made pursuant to Section 100430.

(b) Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the local registrar of births and deaths shall pay to the State Registrar, pursuant to Section 103690, the fees collected pursuant to subdivision (a).

(c) Funds collected pursuant to subdivision (a), upon appropriation by the Legislature, shall be used by the State Registrar to implement and maintain the electronic death registration system required by Section 102778.

SEC. 3. In order to implement this act, the State Department of Health Services may contract, to the extent permitted by Section 19130 of the Government Code, with public or private entities. Any project, contract, or contract amendment to implement this act shall not be subject to Part 2 (commencing with Section 10100) of Division 2 of the Public Contract Code, Division 3 (commencing with Section 11000) of Title 2 of the Government Code, or any policy, procedure, or regulation authorized by those provisions.

