

**SB 298 A STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY**

**Carrier:** Rep. Bonham

**House Committee On Business and Labor**

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**Action Date:** 05/13/19

**Action:** Do Pass the A-Eng bill.

**Vote:** 9-0-2-0

**Yeas:** 9 - Barker, Barreto, Boles, Bonham, Boshart Davis, Clem, Doherty, Evans, Fahey

**Exc:** 2 - Bynum, Holvey

**Fiscal:** Has minimal fiscal impact

**Revenue:** No revenue impact

**Prepared By:** Jan Nordlund, LPRO Analyst

**Meeting Dates:** 4/24, 5/13

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**WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:**

Allows employee or agent of a funeral home that is named in record of death or record of fetal death to request certified copy of record without time limitation. Expands list of people who may receive certified copy of death record containing cause and manner of death to include anyone who can receive certified copy of death record.

**ISSUES DISCUSSED:**

- Experience of probate process exceeding two years

**EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:**

No amendment.

**BACKGROUND:**

An employee or agent of a funeral home or a person acting as a funeral practitioner can request a record of death or fetal death within the two-year period following the date of death if they are named in the record. Family members and other parties can request a death record at any point following the date of death. Funeral homes assist clients by requesting death records of the deceased, but are unable to provide that service outside of the two-year statutory window.

Senate Bill 298-A removes the two-year limit, allowing the employee or agent of a funeral home or person acting as a funeral practitioner named in a record of death or fetal death to request certified copies of the record at any time following the date of death. The measure also allows anyone authorized to receive a certified copy of a death record to also receive a copy of the death record containing the cause and manner of death. This expansion adds employees or agents of a funeral home, siblings, grandparents, grandchildren, and the decedent's legal guardian or representative to the list of people who can request a certified copy of a death record containing the cause and manner of death.