



SENATE BILL 138: Funeral Dir. Exam/Death Certs.

2021-2022 General Assembly

Committee:	House Rules, Calendar, and Operations of the House	Date:	June 22, 2022
Introduced by:	Sens. Newton, Galey	Prepared by:	Jason Moran-Bates
Analysis of:	Third Edition		Staff Attorney

OVERVIEW: *S138 would add a definition for "entry level examination in funeral directing" to G.S. 90-210.20, allow greater flexibility granting North Carolina licenses to individuals who are licensed as funeral directors in other states, allow more time for individuals selling preneed funeral contract to pay their fees to the Board of Funeral Services, and require local health departments and registers of deeds to accept paper death certificates through December 31, 2022.*

CURRENT LAW: Under current law, individuals licensed as funeral directors in other states for at least 3 years can be licensed in North Carolina if their home state has reciprocity with North Carolina. Individuals selling preneed funeral contracts must pay their fees to the Board of Funeral Service within 10 days of selling the contract. As of May 1, 2022, the North Carolina Office of Vital Records requires electronic registration of death certificates.

BILL ANALYSIS:

Section 1 would add a definition of "entry level examination in funeral directing" to the list of definitions in G.S. 90-210.20. It would also allow the Board of Funeral Service to license individuals as funeral directors if those individuals had been licensed in other states for at least 10 years, regardless of whether the state of licensure has reciprocity with North Carolina. Finally, it would extend the time period for individuals selling preneed funeral contracts to pay their fees to the Board of Funeral Service by 30 days if the individuals reside in a county that is under a state of emergency.

Section 2 would require registers of deeds and local health departments to accept paper death certificates through December 31, 2022.

EFFECTIVE DATE: The definitional and reciprocity portions of this bill would be effective October 1, 2022. The remainder of the bill would be effective when it becomes law.

BACKGROUND: The [North Carolina Database Application for Vital Events \(NCDAVE\)](#) was rolled out as an 8-county pilot program in 2020. A full statewide phased rollout was implemented throughout 2021.

Jeffrey Hudson
Director



Legislative Analysis
Division
919-733-2578