As Passed by the House

127th General Assembly Regular Session 2007-2008

Sub. S. B. No. 175

Senator Coughlin

Cosponsors: Senators Clancy, Carey, Schuler, Buehrer, Jacobson, Goodman, Schuring, Gardner, Amstutz, Cates, Faber, Harris, Niehaus, Schaffer, Austria

Representatives Otterman, J., Jones, Goodwin, Huffman, Uecker,
Wachtmann, Adams, Aslanides, Bacon, Batchelder, Blessing, Brinkman,
Coley, Collier, Combs, Dolan, Domenick, Driehaus, Evans, Fessler, Flowers,
Gibbs, Hagan, J., Hite, Hottinger, Hughes, Mandel, McGregor, J.,
Mecklenborg, Oelslager, Raussen, Reinhard, Schindel, Schlichter, Schneider,
Setzer, White, Zehringer

A BILL

Го	amend sections 3705.01, 3705.16, 3705.20, 3705.29,	1
	3719.13, and 4765.11 and to enact sections	2
	517.071, 517.072, 759.49, 759.491, 1721.071,	3
	1721.072, 3727.16, 4731.82, and 4765.57 of the	4
	Revised Code to enact the Grieving Parents Act,	5
	regarding fetal death certificates for, and	6
	burials of, the product of human conception that	7
	suffers a fetal death and to authorize the State	8
	Medical Board to inspect certain records for	9
	purposes of enforcing law governing physician	10
	assistants.	11

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF OHIO:

cemetery promptly shall give notice of the consent to the parent	43
who did not give consent. The notice shall be sent by registered	44
mail, return receipt requested, to the parent's last known address	45
and contain a statement that the re-interment or disinterment will	46
occur if the cemetery does not receive written objection within	47
thirty days from the date the notice is sent. That parent may	48
object to the re-interment or disinterment by giving notice to the	49
cemetery by registered mail, return receipt requested, not later	50
than thirty days after the cemetery's notice is sent. If the	51
cemetery receives timely notice of the objection, the re-interment	52
or disinterment is subject to section 517.24 of the Revised Code.	53
(C) The cemetery shall re-inter or disinter the product of a	54
fetal death if both surviving parents provide written consent for	55
the re-interment or disinterment or if one parent consents and the	56
cemetery does not receive timely notice of any objection under	57
division (B) of this section.	58
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Sec. 759.49. (A) As used in this section and section 759.491	59
of the Revised Code, "fetal death" has the same meaning as in	60
section 3705.01 of the Revised Code.	61
(B) The legislative authority of a municipal corporation	62
owning a public burial ground or cemetery, whether within or	63
without the municipal corporation, may pass and provide for the	64
enforcement of ordinances for the burial, re-interment, or	65
disinterment of the product of a fetal death in that public burial	66
ground or cemetery.	67
(C) With regard to the product of a fetal death, on the	68
request of the mother and in compliance with the public burial	69
ground or cemetery's ordinances, a public burial ground or	70
cemetery shall inter the product of the fetal death in accordance	71
with one of the following:	72
(1) In a single grave within the public burial ground or	73

disinterment is subject to section 517.24 of the Revised Code.

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burial documents for the product of a fetal death buried in	135
accordance with division (C)(2) of section 1721.071 of the Revised	136
Code and only one has given consent under division (A) of this	137
section, prior to re-interment or disinterment, the cemetery	138
promptly shall give notice of the consent to the parent who did	139
not give consent. The notice shall be sent by registered mail,	140
return receipt requested, to the parent's last known address and	141
contain a statement that the re-interment or disinterment will	142
occur if the cemetery does not receive written objection within	143
thirty days from the date the notice is sent. That parent may	144
object to the re-interment or disinterment by giving notice to the	145
cemetery by registered mail, return receipt requested, not later	146
than thirty days after the cemetery's notice is sent. If the	147
cemetery receives timely notice of the objection, the re-interment	148
or disinterment is subject to section 517.24 of the Revised Code.	149
	150
(C) A cemetery shall re-inter or disinter the product of a	151
fetal death if both surviving parents provide written consent for	152
the re-interment or disinterment or if one parent consents and the	153
cemetery does not receive timely notice of an objection under	154
division (B) of this section.	155
Sec. 3705.01. As used in this chapter:	156
(A) "Live birth" means the complete expulsion or extraction	157
from its mother of a product of human conception that after such	158
expulsion or extraction breathes or shows any other evidence of	159
life such as beating of the heart, pulsation of the umbilical	160
cord, or definite movement of voluntary muscles, whether or not	161
the umbilical cord has been cut or the placenta is attached.	162
(B)(1) "Fetal death" means death prior to the complete	163
expulsion or extraction from its mother of a product of human	164

conception of at least twenty weeks of gestation, irrespective of

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a dead body by burial or entombment.	196
(L) "Cremation" means the reduction to ashes of a dead body.	197
(M) "Donation" means gift of a dead body to a research	198
institution or medical school.	199
(N) "System of vital statistics" means the registration,	200
collection, preservation, amendment, and certification of vital	201
records, the collection of other reports required by this chapter,	202
and activities related thereto.	203
(0) "Vital records" means certificates or reports of birth,	204
death, fetal death, marriage, divorce, dissolution of marriage,	205
annulment, and data related thereto and other documents maintained	206
as required by statute.	207
(P) "File" means the presentation of vital records for	208
registration by the office of vital statistics.	209
(Q) "Registration" means the acceptance by the office of	210
vital statistics and the incorporation of vital records into its	211
official records.	212
(R) "Birth record" means a birth certificate that has been	213
registered with the office of vital statistics; or, if registered	214
prior to the effective date of this section March 16, 1989, with	215
the division of vital statistics; or, if registered prior to the	216
establishment of the division of vital statistics, with the	217
department of health or a local registrar.	218
(S) "Certification of birth" means a document issued by the	219
director of health or state registrar or a local registrar under	220
division (B) of section 3705.23 of the Revised Code.	221
Sec. 3705.16. (A) For purposes of this section	222
notwithstanding section 3705.01 of the Revised Code, "fetal death"	223
does not include death of the product of human conception prior to	224
twenty weeks of destation	225

(B) Each death or fetal death that occurs in this state shall	226
be registered with the local registrar of vital statistics of the	227
district in which the death or fetal death occurred, by the	228
funeral director or other person in charge of the final	229
disposition of the remains. The personal and statistical	230
information in the death or fetal death certificate shall be	231
obtained from the best qualified persons or sources available, by	232
the funeral director or other person in charge of the final	233
disposition of the remains. The statement of facts relating to the	234
disposition of the body and information relative to the armed	235
services referred to in section 3705.19 of the Revised Code shall	236
be signed by the funeral director or other person in charge of the	237
final disposition of the remains.	238

(B)(C) The funeral director or other person in charge of the 239 final disposition of the remains shall present the death or fetal 240 death certificate to the attending physician of the decedent, the 241 coroner, or the medical examiner, as appropriate for certification 242 of the cause of death. If a death or fetal death occurs under any 243 circumstances mentioned in section 313.12 of the Revised Code, the 244 coroner in the county in which the death occurs, or a deputy 245 coroner, medical examiner, or deputy medical examiner serving in 246 an equivalent capacity, shall certify the cause of death unless 247 that death was reported to the coroner, deputy coroner, medical 248 examiner, or deputy medical examiner and that person, after a 249 preliminary examination, declined to assert jurisdiction with 250 respect to the death or fetal death. A physician other than the 251 coroner in the county in which a death or fetal death occurs, or a 252 deputy coroner, medical examiner, or deputy medical examiner 253 serving in an equivalent capacity, may certify only those deaths 254 that occur under natural circumstances. 255

The medical certificate of death shall be completed and 256 signed by the physician who attended the decedent or by the 257

coroner or medical examiner, as appropriate, within forty-eight	258
hours after the death or fetal death. A coroner or medical	259
examiner may satisfy the requirement of signing a medical	260
certificate showing the cause of death or fetal death as pending	261
either by stamping it with a stamp of the coroner's or medical	262
examiner's signature or by signing it in the coroner's or medical	263
examiner's own hand, but the coroner or medical examiner shall	264
sign any other medical certificate of death or supplementary	265
medical certification in the coroner's or medical examiner's own	266
hand.	267
$\frac{(C)}{(D)}$ Any death certificate registered pursuant to this	268
section shall contain the social security number of the decedent,	269
if available. A social security number obtained under this section	270
is a public record under section 149.43 of the Revised Code.	271
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Sec. 3705.20. $\frac{1}{4}$ (A) The fetal death of the product of human	273
conception of at least twenty weeks of gestation shall be	274
registered on a fetal death certificate. A	275
On application of either parent, the fetal death of the	276
product of human conception prior to twenty weeks of gestation	277
shall be registered on a fetal death certificate, except that the	278
fetal death certificate shall not list the cause of death.	279
The parent shall include with the application a copy of the	280
statement required by division (B)(1) of section 3727.16 or	281
division (B)(1) of section 4731.82 of the Revised Code. If the	282
father submits the application, he shall also include with it a	283
signed and notarized document from the mother attesting that she	284
voluntarily provided the father with a copy of the statement.	285
A fetal death certificate for the product of human conception	286
prior to twenty weeks gestation is not proof of a live birth for	287
purposes of federal, state, and local taxes.	288

(B) The product of human conception that suffers a fetal	289
death which occurs of at least twenty weeks of gestation occurring	290
in Ohio shall not be interred, deposited in a vault or tomb,	291
cremated, or otherwise disposed of by a funeral director or other	292
person until a fetal death certificate or provisional death	293
certificate has been filed with and a burial permit is issued by	294
the local registrar of vital statistics of the registration	295
district in which the fetal death occurs, or the body is found.	296
The	297
A burial permit for the product of human conception that	298
suffers a fetal death prior to twenty weeks of gestation shall be	299
issued by the local registrar of vital statistics of the	300
registration district in which the fetal death occurs if either	301
parent files a fetal death certificate with that registrar.	302
(C)(1) The department of health and the local registrar shall	303
keep a separate record and index record of fetal death	304
certificates.	305
(2) The personal or statistical information on the fetal	306
death certificate shall be obtained by the funeral director or	307
other person in charge of interment or cremation from the best	308
qualified persons or sources available.	309
Sec. 3705.29. (A) No person shall do any of the following:	310
(1) Purposely make any false statement in a certificate,	311
record, or report required by this chapter or in an application or	312
amendment of it, or purposely supply false information with the	313
intent that that information be used in the preparation of any	314
such report, record, or certificate, or amendment of it;	315
(2) Without lawful authority and with intent to deceive,	316
counterfeit, alter, amend, or mutilate any certificate, record, or	317
report required by this chapter or any certified copy of it;	318
	

(3) Purposely obtain, possess, use, sell, furnish, or attempt	319
to obtain, possess, use, sell, or furnish to another for the	320
purpose of deception any certificate, record, or report required	321
by this chapter or any certified copy of it, or any certificate,	322
record, or report that is counterfeit, altered, or amended or	323
false in whole or part;	324
(4) Purposely obtain, possess, use, sell, furnish, or attempt	325
to obtain, possess, use, sell, or furnish to another for the	326
purpose of deception any certificate, record, or report required	327
by this chapter, or any certified copy of it, that relates to the	328
birth of another person, whether living or dead;	329
(5) Without lawful authority, possess any certificate,	330
record, or report required by this chapter or any copy of such a	331
certificate, record, or report, knowing it to have been stolen or	332
otherwise unlawfully obtained.	333
(B) No person employed by the office of vital statistics or a	334
local registrar shall purposely furnish or possess a birth record	335
or certified copy of a birth record with intent that it be used	336
for deception.	337
(C) No person shall do any of the following:	338
(1) Purposely refuse to provide information required by this	339
chapter or rules adopted under it;	340
(2) Purposely transport out of this state or accept for	341
interment or other disposition a dead body without a permit	342
required by this chapter;	343
(3) Knowingly prepare, issue, sell, or give any record or	344
certificate that is alleged to be an original vital record or a	345
certified copy of a vital record if the person knows or has reason	346
to know that it is not an original vital record or a certified	347
copy of a vital record;	348

- (4) Refuse to comply with the requirements of this chapter orviolate any of the provisions of this chapter.
- (D) No officer or employee of the department of health shall 351 knowingly reveal or provide any information contained in an 352 adoption file maintained by the department under section 3705.12 353 of the Revised Code to any person, or knowingly reveal or provide 354 the contents of an adoption file to any person, unless authorized 355 to do so by section 3705.12 of the Revised Code. 356
- (E) If a death, or a fetal death of at least twenty weeks of 357 gestation, occurs under any circumstances mentioned in section 358 313.12 of the Revised Code, the coroner of the county in which the 359 death or fetal death occurs, or a deputy coroner, medical 360 examiner, or deputy medical examiner serving in an equivalent 361 capacity, shall certify the cause of that death unless the death 362 was reported to the coroner, deputy coroner, medical examiner, or 363 deputy medical examiner and that person, after a preliminary 364 examination, declined to assert jurisdiction with respect to the 365 death or fetal death. 366
- (F) No physician other than the coroner in the county in 367 which a death, or a fetal death of at least twenty weeks of 368 gestation, occurs, or a deputy coroner, medical examiner, or 369 deputy medical examiner serving in an equivalent capacity, may 370 certify any death or fetal death that occurs under any 371 circumstances other than natural.
- (G) If a death, or a fetal death of at least twenty weeks of 373 gestation, occurs under any circumstances mentioned in section 374 313.12 of the Revised Code, no person shall knowingly present a 375 death or fetal death certificate for the purpose of obtaining 376 certification of the cause of death to any physician other than 377 the coroner in the county in which the death or fetal death 378 occurred, or to a deputy coroner, medical examiner, or deputy 379 medical examiner serving in an equivalent capacity, unless that 380

death or fetal death was reported to the coroner, deputy coroner,	381
medical examiner, or deputy medical examiner and that person,	382
after a preliminary examination, declined to assert jurisdiction	383
with respect to the death or fetal death.	384

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- (H) No person, with intent to defraud or knowing that the person is facilitating a fraud, shall do either of the following:
- (1) Certify a cause of death in violation of the prohibition 387 of division (E) or (F) of this section; 388
- (2) Obtain or attempt to obtain a certification of the cause 389 of a death or fetal death in violation of the prohibition of 390 division (G) of this section.

Sec. 3719.13. Prescriptions, orders, and records, required by 392 Chapter 3719. of the Revised Code, and stocks of dangerous drugs 393 and controlled substances, shall be open for inspection only to 394 federal, state, county, and municipal officers, and employees of 395 the state board of pharmacy whose duty it is to enforce the laws 396 of this state or of the United States relating to controlled 397 substances. Such prescriptions, orders, records, and stocks shall 398 be open for inspection by employees of the state medical board for 399 purposes of enforcing Chapter Chapters 4730. and 4731. of the 400 Revised Code and employees of the board of nursing for pursposes 401 purposes of enforcing Chapter 4723. of the Revised Code. No person 402 having knowledge of any such prescription, order, or record shall 403 divulge such knowledge, except in connection with a prosecution or 404 proceeding in court or before a licensing or registration board or 405 officer, to which prosecution or proceeding the person to whom 406 such prescriptions, orders, or records relate is a party. 407

Sec. 3727.16. (A) As used in this section, "fetal death" has

the same meaning as in section 3705.01 of the Revised Code, except

that it does not include either of the following:

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description required by divisions (B)(2) and (B)(3) of this

document in the woman's medical record that all of the items

required by this division were provided to the woman and shall

place in the record a copy of the statement required by division

professional disciplinary action with regard to any action taken

(C) A physician is immune from civil or criminal liability or

section through oral or written means. The physician shall

(B)(1) of this section.

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practice issued under section 4765.30 of the Revised Code and for

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of section 4765.35 of the Revised Code to perform, EMTs-basic are

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authorized by division (C) of section 4765.37 of the Revised Code	531
to perform, EMTs-I are authorized by division (B)(5) of section	532
4765.38 of the Revised Code to perform, and paramedics are	533
authorized by division (B)(6) of section 4765.39 of the Revised	534
Code to perform;	535
(19) Standards and procedures for implementing the	536
requirements of section 4765.06 of the Revised Code, including	537
designations of the persons who are required to report information	538
to the board and the types of information to be reported;	539
(20) Procedures for administering the emergency medical	540
services grant program established under section 4765.07 of the	541
Revised Code;	542
(21) Procedures consistent with Chapter 119. of the Revised	543
Code for appealing decisions of the board;	544
(22) Minimum qualifications and peer review and quality	545
improvement requirements for persons who provide medical direction	546
to emergency medical service personnel;	547
(23) The manner in which a patient, or a patient's parent,	548
guardian, or custodian may consent to the board releasing	549
identifying information about the patient under division (D) of	550
section 4765.102 of the Revised Code;	551
(24) Circumstances under which a training program or	552
continuing education program, or portion of either type of	553
program, may be taught by a person who does not hold a certificate	554
to teach issued under section 4765.23 of the Revised Code.	555
(B) The board may adopt, and may amend and rescind, rules in	556
accordance with Chapter 119. of the Revised Code and division (C)	557
of this section that establish the following:	558
(1) Specifications of information that may be collected under	559

the trauma system registry and incidence reporting system created

(B) Emergency medical service personnel shall dispose of the

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product of a fetal death in the manner set forth for the	591
disposition of fetal remains in the "emergency medical	592
technician-basic: national standard curriculum."	593
Section 2. That existing sections 3705.01, 3705.16, 3705.20,	594
3705.29, 3719.13, and 4765.11 of the Revised Code are hereby	595
repealed.	
Section 3. This act shall be known as "The Grieving Parents	597
Act."	598