

No. 38

AN ACT

SB 224

Amending the act of June 29, 1953 (P.L.304), entitled "An act providing for the administration of a statewide system of vital statistics; prescribing the functions of the State Department of Health, the State Advisory Health Board and local registrars; imposing duties upon coroners, prothonotaries, clerks of orphans' court, physicians, midwives and other persons; requiring reports and certificates for the registration of vital statistics; regulating the disposition of dead bodies; limiting the disclosure of records; prescribing the sufficiency of vital statistics records as evidence; prescribing fees and penalties; and revising and consolidating the laws relating thereto," revising the filing and issuing of death and fetal death certificates.

The General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania hereby enacts as follows:

Section 1. Sections 501 and 504, act of June 29, 1953 (P.L.304), known as the "Vital Statistics Law of 1953," are amended to read:

Section 501. Death and Fetal Death Registration: Certificates to be Filed.—A certificate of each death or fetal death which occurs in this Commonwealth shall be filed within ~~[seventy-two (72)]~~ *ninety-six (96)* hours after the death or fetal death or within ~~[seventy-two (72)]~~ *ninety-six (96)* hours after the finding of a dead body or fetal remains. In every instance, the certificate shall be filed prior to the issuance of a permit for interment or other disposition of the dead body or fetal remains. The person in charge of interment or of removal of the dead body or fetal remains from the registration district shall file the certificate with ~~[the local registrar of the district in which the death or fetal death occurred, or if the place of death or fetal death is unknown, with the local registrar of the district in which the dead body or fetal remains were found, or with such other local registrar as the Advisory Health Board may by regulation designate]~~ *any local registrar who shall be authorized to issue certified copies of such death.*

Section 504. Death and Fetal Death Registration: Permits Concerning Dead Bodies and Fetal Remains.—No person shall dispose of a dead body or fetal remains ~~[or remove the same from the registration district until the]~~ *until a* local registrar issues a permit therefor. The local registrar shall issue the permit only after the person in charge of interment or removal has filed with the local registrar a certificate of death or fetal death and has complied with all regulations with respect to the issuance of the permit.

The sexton or other person in charge of any premises in which bodies are interred or cremated shall not allow the interment or cremation of any dead body or fetal remains unless a permit issued under this section is presented to him. The sexton or other person in charge of such premises shall indorse upon each permit presented to him the date of interment or cremation, over his signature, and shall return the permit so indorsed to

the local registrar of his district within ten days from the date of interment or cremation.

Section 2. This act shall take effect immediately.

APPROVED—The 9th day of July, A. D. 1971.

MILTON J. SHAPP

The foregoing is a true and correct copy of Act of the General Assembly No. 38.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "C. McLaughlin Tucker". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Secretary of the Commonwealth.