

By: King of Zavala

H.B. No. 3804

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

1 AN ACT
2 relating to the form of death certificates and fetal death
3 certificates.

4 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

5 SECTION 1. Section 193.001, Health and Safety Code, is
6 amended by adding Subsection (a-1) to read as follows:

7 (a-1) In prescribing each form under Subsection (a), the
8 department shall ensure that the form instructs the person required
9 to file the death certificate or fetal death certificate to:

10 (1) enter the date in the standard order of "month,
11 day, year";

12 (2) spell out the name of the month when entering the
13 date;

14 (3) spell out the name of the deceased using both
15 capital and lowercase letters;

16 (4) use parentheses around the abbreviation "aka"; and

17 (5) express the time of death in a 24-hour military
18 time format.

19 SECTION 2. (a) The Department of State Health Services
20 shall revise and make available the forms required by Section
21 193.001, Health and Safety Code, as amended by this Act, not later
22 than January 1, 2010.

23 (b) A person required to file a death certificate or a fetal
24 death certificate is not required to use the revised form required

1 by Section 193.001, Health and Safety Code, as amended by this Act,
2 before February 1, 2010.

3 SECTION 3. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives
4 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as
5 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this
6 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this
7 Act takes effect September 1, 2009.