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| BILL ANALYSIS |

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| S.B. 1599 |
| By: Miles |
| Public Health |
| Committee Report (Unamended) |

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| **BACKGROUND AND PURPOSE**  Concerned parties note the increase in the state's maternal mortality rate. S.B. 1599 seeks to address this issue by providing for the posting of certain information regarding a systematic protocol for pregnancy-related death investigations and best practices for reporting pregnancy‑related deaths. |
| **CRIMINAL JUSTICE IMPACT**  It is the committee's opinion that this bill does not expressly create a criminal offense, increase the punishment for an existing criminal offense or category of offenses, or change the eligibility of a person for community supervision, parole, or mandatory supervision. |
| **RULEMAKING AUTHORITY**  It is the committee's opinion that rulemaking authority is expressly granted to the executive commissioner of the Health and Human Services Commission in SECTION 1 of this bill. |
| **ANALYSIS**  S.B. 1599 amends the Health and Safety Code to require the Department of State Health Services (DSHS) to post on the DSHS website information regarding the systematic protocol for pregnancy-related death investigations and the best practices for reporting pregnancy-related deaths to the medical examiner or justice of the peace of each county, as applicable. The bill requires such information to include guidelines for determining when a comprehensive toxicology screening should be performed on a person whose death was related to pregnancy, determining when a death should be reported to or investigated by a medical examiner or justice of the peace under the Code of Criminal Procedure, and correctly completing the death certificate of a person whose death was related to pregnancy. The bill requires the executive commissioner of the Health and Human Services Commission to adopt rules as necessary to implement the bill's provisions. |
| **EFFECTIVE DATE**  September 1, 2017. |