By: Turner of Dallas

H.B. No. 1011

	A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
1	AN ACT
2	relating to expedited death certificates for religious purposes in
3	certain counties.
4	BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:
5	SECTION 1. Chapter 193, Health and Safety Code, is amended
6	by adding Section 193.0025 to read as follows:
7	Sec. 193.0025. EXPEDITED DEATH CERTIFICATES FOR RELIGIOUS
8	PURPOSES IN CERTAIN COUNTIES. (a) This section applies only to a
9	county:
10	(1) with an office of medical examiner established in
11	accordance with Section 1, Article 49.25, Code of Criminal
12	Procedure; and
13	(2) for which the commissioners court of the county by
14	resolution elects for this section to apply.
15	(b) An individual may submit to the person required to file
16	a death certificate under Section 193.002 a written request for the
17	person to expedite the completion of a decedent's death certificate
18	if the requestor demonstrates that:
19	(1) the expedited completion is necessary for
20	religious purposes;
21	(2) the decedent's remains will be interred, entombed,
22	buried, cremated, or otherwise laid to rest in a foreign country;
23	and
24	(3) the requestor is authorized to obtain a copy of the

1

H.B. No. 1011

1	death certificate.
2	(c) A person who receives a request under Subsection (b)
3	shall issue a copy of the decedent's death certificate to the
4	requestor not later than 48 hours after the time the person receives
5	the request unless an inquest will be conducted for the decedent.
6	(d) For purposes of completing an expedited death
7	certificate under this section, a medical examiner may:
8	(1) perform a medical examination; and
9	(2) complete the medical certification, provided:
10	(A) the medical examiner has access to the
11	decedent's medical history relevant to the death;
12	(B) the decedent's death is due to natural
13	causes; and
14	(C) the medical examiner serves as medical
15	examiner of the county in which the death occurred.
16	(e) The executive commissioner shall adopt rules necessary
17	to implement this section.
18	SECTION 2. As soon as practicable after the effective date
19	of this Act, the executive commissioner of the Health and Human
20	Services Commission shall adopt rules necessary to implement
21	Section 193.0025, Health and Safety Code, as added by this Act.
22	SECTION 3. This Act takes effect September 1, 2021.

2