

PUBLIC COMMENTS

HB 1011

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC HEALTH

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Hearing Date: March 17, 2021 8:00 AM

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Whitney Pease

Self

Coppell, TX

I support this bill!

It is important that we be able to bury our loved ones in the place that they requested and in a timely manner.

Joseph Wachsman

Self

Dallas, TX

I support this bill very much

Judith Gothelf

Jewish people

Dallas, TX

Please pass this bill to enable people to bury their loved ones according to their faith.

Meyer Denn

Self

DALLAS, TX

Please pass this bill. It is very important to so many of us.

Judith Safern

Self

Dallas, TX

As an Orthodox Jew, this bill is extremely relevant to my family. I appreciate the Committee considering this change in the local law.

Mae Ozeri

Self, Educator

dallas, TX

This bill allows for both dignity in death and religious freedom. Allowing for a timely funeral is at the center of many religions, and this will allow the healing process to begin for family and friends. There is no downside to this bill, it offends no one and

Printed on: March 30, 2021 5:32 PM

harms no one. There is no controversy, only an opportunity to help facilitate a timely funeral. Please approve this bill.

Debra M Epstein

Self, retired

Dallas, TX

I support the approval of this important bill.

Shifra Robkin

self

Plano, TX

I support this bill.

Susan Turner

Self

Plano, TX

This bill is important to the Jewish community.

Naama Weingarden

Self realtor

Dallas, TX

We need to be able to expedite death certificates for proper respect for Jewish burials. I am a volunteer who helps to prepare bodies for Jewish burial according to Jewish law.

Roni Rothstein

Self

Dallas, TX

My family and I would greatly appreciate your support of this bill

Thank you

Rabbi Bentzi Epstein, Rabbi

DATA Dallas Area Torah Association

Dallas, TX

Thank you for taking the time to consider this bill. According to Jewish Law, it is very important to bury a deceased person as soon as we can. It causes tremendous pain and suffering to the soul when it's not buried. As well, it causes tremendous grief to the mourners.

Please do all that you can to help expedite the process so that we can bury the deceased as quickly as possible.

Thank you again for your time.

May G-D Bless y'all!

Nathaniel ZAKON, Rabbi

DATA of Plano

Printed on: March 30, 2021 5:32 PM

Plano, TX

I strongly support the expedition of death certificates for religious purposes. As a spiritual leader this is very meaningful and of great religious importance.

Sam Fried

Self rabbi

Plano, TX

Please pass bill. Many religious people want their relatives to Rest In Peace.

Avraham Scheinberg, Rabbi

Rodfei Sholom - San Antonio

San Antonio, TX

Please pass this bill for religious communities need burial done as soon as possible. There is no reason to hold the bodies. It is extremely important for us. Thank you.

Andrea Eisenstein

Chevra Kadisha of Houston

Houston, TX

Please support passage of this bill. As a member of the Jewish burial society in Houston and a person of the Jewish faith, our religious laws instruct a speedy burial for a deceased person. When someone is being flown overseas for burial, expediting the death certificate to enable immediate transporting is of great importance. Of course, any local laws pertaining to delay of burial will be followed, but otherwise an expedited death certificate would allow for the expedited transport and burial overseas and compliance with our religious laws.

Thank you for your consideration in support of this bill.

Andrea Eisenstein

Yaakov Rich, Rabbi

Congregation Toras Chaim

Dallas, TX

Delaying the burial is a tragic dishonor for the vessel that once contained the holy soul. Often, we will try to bury loved ones in Israel, according to Jewish tradition, but require an expedited death certificate to minimize the delay as much as possible. This bill affords the deceased the proper honor on the final passage from this world. This law would be of monumental importance to the Jewish community, and I greatly appreciate this opportunity to express my support of this bill.

Ariel Rackovsky

Congregation Shaare Tefilla

Dallas, TX

I am all in favor of this bill; it will be essential in fulfilling our religious obligations while speeding up the bureaucracy attendant.

Miriam Banarer

Printed on: March 30, 2021 5:32 PM

Self-physician

Dallas, TX

This bill is important and should be passed!

Moshe Segal

self

Richardson, TX

I wanted to make known my support of the proposed bill HB 1011, regarding expedited death certificates for religious purposes.  
Thank you

Yermiahu Sarne

Self

North Dallas, TX

As a practicing member of the Jewish faith, this bill is very important to me. The ability to expedite death certificates to help hasten the burial of loved ones who need to be moved would enable us to bury loved ones as is befitting their dignity.

Toyam Cox

Self, Developer

DALLAS, TX

This is an important issue for any religion with fast burial deadlines and holy land outside the country.

Kelly Ceder

Self

Dallas, TX

We are in support of this bill. Thank you for addressing this issue and helping us bury our deceased in a respectful religious manner as quickly as possible as our religion says is necessary.

Allan Schwartz

Self - Retired business management.

Dallas, TX

Please note my support for HB 1011.

Allan Schwartz

Susan Skibell

Self Weight Watchers Coach

Dallas, TX

I SUPPORT THIS BILL!

Printed on: March 30, 2021 5:32 PM

Aaron Ceder  
self  
DALLAS, TX

We support this bill since it will help ensure that the deceased is buried in manner consistent with Jewish law and it will also ensure that the family of the deceased does not have an extra concern during their time of grief.

Vivian Sarne  
Self, physician assistant  
Dallas, TX

I support this bill

Robert Udman  
Self  
Dallas, TX

This bill if very important to me and members of our community and we wholeheartedly support it passage.

Yaakov Dykman  
self, college student  
DALLAS, TX

Please consider this bill as it is so important to me and my fellow religious community to bury the the dead in a respectful manner and with minimal delay. Many Jews prefer to be buried after they die abroad in Israel and this is an extremely sentimental and spiritually meaningful practice. The swiftness of procurement of the expedited death certificates insures that the dead body will not be delayed and cause humiliation to the family and disgrace to the passed-on themselves. Thank you for considering something so sensitive and meaningful to followers of Judaism.

Deena Schonfeld  
Self occupational therapist  
Dallas, TX

I support

Deon Nathan  
Dallas Chedva Kadisha  
Dallas, TX

We strongly support this bill. Thank you

Mordechai Harris  
Self / Rabbi  
Plano, TX

I am in support of this bill as it facilitates free religious expressions without risking any establishment of religion on the part of  
Printed on: March 30, 2021 5:32 PM

the state. Given the lack of meaningful burden placed upon the state and/or local government as well as the the absence of additional burden upon any private citizen when providing for this religious accommodation, it seems a very reasonable accommodation in support of religious freedoms. Thank you.

Elliott Brod

Self

Dallas, TX

This is an excellent initiative with incredible importance to our community. I applaud the efforts to bas this bill.

Stephen Ruback

Self - Research Scientist (retired)

Dallas, TX

Please vote in the affirmative on this resolution. For those of the Jewish faith burial is required as soon after death as possible and to be buried in Israel is also a priority where that is desired.

Tobi Rothschild

Self

DALLAS, TX

As an orthodox Jew, we are commanded to bury our dead as soon as possible. I fully support this bill.

Myron Lurie

Self

Dallas, TX

Pasd This Bill

Yehudah Abrams

Self

Dallas, TX

Please do all you can to accommodate every person's needs at all times. Expedited death certificates help families fulfill their relatives last wishes in an honorable way.

Richard Evans

Emgage Action

Austin, TX

Emgage Action is non-profit organization representing the Muslim community in Texas and we support House Bill 1011 by Rep. John Turner.

Texas has the largest population of Muslims in the country with an estimated 500,000 living in many areas of the state with the largest concentrations in Houston, Dallas, and Austin. One very important funeral rite in the Islamic faith is that burial take place as quickly as possible after death. For this reason, there is no viewing, wake, or visitation. Immediately after death, the body is washed and covered with a sheet by family members. The hands are placed as if in prayer. Then the body is transported to the

Printed on: March 30, 2021 5:32 PM

location of the funeral, a mosque.

Many countries require a death certificate for a person to be transported to their country including Pakistan and India

This legislation would expedite death certificates for a Muslim who is being transported to a foreign country and help Muslims comply with important funeral rites.

Shalom Krengel

Ohr Hatorah

Dallas, TX

My father recently passed away and needed to bury his body in Israel, the cost us way too much to go through this long process here in Dallas and also in NY before sending him to Israel, we wish we could do this process just here in Dallas then sending him to Israel.. if you could help us to change this bill that would be nice. Thank you, Shalom Krengel

KENNETH BROODO

Dallas Jewish Community

Dallas, TX

Please pass this bill and cut through the red tape, allowing people to deal with their local agencies.

Michael Geller, Administrator

Dallas Chevra Kadisha

Dallas, TX

Traditional Jewish burial places a premium on speed. For decedents being buried in Israel, many ministerial matters must be transacted, which slows down the process for a process that values speed. Historically, a bottleneck in the process centers on the death certificate. HB 1011 addresses the issue by empowering local officials to streamline and expedite the issuance of documentation to facilitate the transport of decedents abroad for burial. I did not see a fiscal note but I believe HB 1011 will not result in a cost to the State. I urge the Committee to favorably vote out HB 1011 to the full House. If there is one change I would make I would add an emergency provision so the Bill is effective upon the Governor's signature. Thank you.

Anwer Wadiwala, Mr.

ISGH

Sugar Land, TX

Islamic Faith require Muslim to bury their bodies Asap

Richard Solomon

self Financial accountant

Dallas, TX

I feel that the localities are far better able to deal with this issue than the state and at a time of loss, the less bureaucracy the better.

Stephen Ellis

self

Dallas, TX

Printed on: March 30, 2021 5:32 PM

Please pass this bill. The expedited burial of a person upon their death is a supreme kindness to the persons soul.

Sumbel Zeb, Mrs.

Muslim Democratic Caucus of Texas

Dallas, TX

I would like to commend Representative Turner for introducing this bill which will make what is a very difficult time for Texas families, less so. My name is Sumbel Zeb and I'm the President of the Muslim Democratic Caucus of Texas and I am a Texan who is a Muslim.

HB 1011 will help Texans of various faiths, including Muslims, Jews, and Hindus, deal with less red tape from authorities when it comes to putting their loved ones at rest. For Muslims and for Jews, burial of a body needs to occur as soon as possible. In Islam, it is generally accepted that 3 days is the latest a body can be buried (but it should be buried as soon as possible, 3 days is the maximum and isn't preferred).

When individuals had the final wish of being buried over seas (for example, a grandmother wished to be buried in her native Jordan or Pakistan where an ancestral plot exists or where her husband is already at rest ), or when families want a family member buried over seas (as in the case of someone is visiting from overseas but their family remains in the native country), it is a complicated process from beginning to end, that families have to deal with while they are grieving to loss of a loved one. This includes financial strains, bureaucratic red tape at the state level, federal level, with the foreign nation where burial would take place, with transportation of the body, etc, and this Bill would allow individuals to cut down the time taken in receiving the death certificate- which would ultimately provide them with the comfort that they're able to practice their faith, that their loved ones were buried according to their faith- which means so much at the end of life.

This bill would also help Texans of the Hindu faith, who often have relatives visiting from overseas and who want to have their funeral rights in India for cremation, and for their ashes to be spread in a holy body of water. In the Hindu faith, it is also very important for the body to be cremated as soon as possible. Again, this bill would allow these families to deal with less red tape and delays in having their loved ones laid to rest according to their religious traditions.

The Great State of Texas champions religious freedom and the ability to practice one's faith, and what's beautiful about this State and our nation is the diversity of faiths here. This bill should be supported by both Democrats and and Republicans, because religion and death impact us all, and we all know what it is like to lose a loved one and to put their body at rest. Anything to make that process easier from the State's end is much appreciated and needed. I thank Rep. Turner once again for recognizing the significance of this issue, and for considering the religious sentiments of various faith communities and immigrant communities in Texas.