

HB0012S01 compared with HB0012

~~{deleted text}~~ shows text that was in HB0012 but was deleted in HB0012S01.

inserted text shows text that was not in HB0012 but was inserted into HB0012S01.

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Representative Mike Winder proposes the following substitute bill:

DECEASED VOTER AMENDMENTS

2021 GENERAL SESSION

STATE OF UTAH

Chief Sponsor: Mike Winder

Senate Sponsor: _____

LONG TITLE

~~+Committee Note:~~

~~The Government Operations Interim Committee recommended this bill.~~

~~Legislative Vote: 15 voting for 0 voting against 1 absent~~

~~;General Description:~~

This bill provides for removal of a voter's name from the official register of voters upon the voter's death.

Highlighted Provisions:

This bill:

- ▶ requires ~~a local~~the state registrar ~~who receives a certificate of death for a Utah resident to notify the county clerk of the voter's last known residence; and~~
- ~~requires a county clerk who receives the notice, to provide the lieutenant governor's office with certain information relating to deceased individuals to ensure that the~~

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- individuals are removed from the official register of voters;
- requires the lieutenant governor to provide the information described in the preceding paragraph to the county clerks, who are required to remove ~~(the voter's name; deceased individuals)~~ from the official register of voters; and
- requires the lieutenant governor to take certain action to ensure that the county clerks have complied with the requirements of this bill.

Money Appropriated in this Bill:

None

Other Special Clauses:

None

Utah Code Sections Affected:

AMENDS:

20A-2-306, as last amended by Laws of Utah 2020, Chapter 255

26-2-13, as last amended by Laws of Utah 2009, Chapters 66 and 68

Be it enacted by the Legislature of the state of Utah:

Section 1. Section **20A-2-306** is amended to read:

20A-2-306. Removing names from the official register -- Determining and confirming change of residence.

(1) A county clerk may not remove a voter's name from the official register on the grounds that the voter has changed residence unless the voter:

(a) confirms in writing that the voter has changed residence to a place outside the county; or

(b) (i) has not voted in an election during the period beginning on the date of the notice required by Subsection (3), and ending on the day after the date of the second regular general election occurring after the date of the notice; and

(ii) has failed to respond to the notice required by Subsection (3).

(2) (a) When a county clerk obtains information that a voter's address has changed and it appears that the voter still resides within the same county, the county clerk shall:

(i) change the official register to show the voter's new address; and

(ii) send to the voter, by forwardable mail, the notice required by Subsection (3)

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printed on a postage prepaid, preaddressed return form.

(b) When a county clerk obtains information that a voter's address has changed and it appears that the voter now resides in a different county, the county clerk shall verify the changed residence by sending to the voter, by forwardable mail, the notice required by Subsection (3) printed on a postage prepaid, preaddressed return form.

(3) Each county clerk shall use substantially the following form to notify voters whose addresses have changed:

[REDACTED] VOTER REGISTRATION NOTICE

We have been notified that your residence has changed. Please read, complete, and return this form so that we can update our voter registration records. What is your current street address?

Street	City	County	State	Zip
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If you have not changed your residence or have moved but stayed within the same county, you must complete and return this form to the county clerk so that it is received by the county clerk before 5 p.m. no later than 30 days before the date of the election. If you fail to return this form within that time:

- you may be required to show evidence of your address to the poll worker before being allowed to vote in either of the next two regular general elections; or
- if you fail to vote at least once from the date this notice was mailed until the passing of two regular general elections, you will no longer be registered to vote. If you have changed your residence and have moved to a different county in Utah, you may register to vote by contacting the county clerk in your county.

Signature of Voter

PRIVACY INFORMATION

Voter registration records contain some information that is available to the public, such as your name and address, some information that is available only to government entities, and some information that is available only to certain third parties in accordance with the requirements of law.

Your driver license number, identification card number, social security number, email

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address, and full date of birth are available only to government entities. Your year of birth is available to political parties, candidates for public office, certain third parties, and their contractors, employees, and volunteers, in accordance with the requirements of law.

You may request that all information on your voter registration records be withheld from all persons other than government entities, political parties, candidates for public office, and their contractors, employees, and volunteers, by indicating here:

 Yes, I request that all information on my voter registration records be withheld from all persons other than government entities, political parties, candidates for public office, and their contractors, employees, and volunteers.

REQUEST FOR ADDITIONAL PRIVACY PROTECTION

In addition to the protections provided above, you may request that all information on your voter registration records be withheld from all political parties, candidates for public office, and their contractors, employees, and volunteers, by submitting a withholding request form, and any required verification, as described in the following paragraphs.

A person may request that all information on the person's voter registration records be withheld from all political parties, candidates for public office, and their contractors, employees, and volunteers, by submitting a withholding request form with this registration record, or to the lieutenant governor or a county clerk, if the person is or is likely to be, or resides with a person who is or is likely to be, a victim of domestic violence or dating violence.

A person may request that all information on the person's voter registration records be withheld from all political parties, candidates for public office, and their contractors, employees, and volunteers, by submitting a withholding request form and any required verification with this registration form, or to the lieutenant governor or a county clerk, if the person is, or resides with a person who is, a law enforcement officer, a member of the armed forces, a public figure, or protected by a protective order or a protection order.

(4) (a) Except as provided in Subsection (4)(b), the county clerk may not remove the names of any voters from the official register during the 90 days before a regular primary election and the 90 days before a regular general election.

(b) The county clerk may remove the names of voters from the official register during the 90 days before a regular primary election and the 90 days before a regular general election if:

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- (i) the voter requests, in writing, that the voter's name be removed; or
 - (ii) the voter has died.
- (c) (i) After a county clerk mails a notice as required in this section, the county clerk may list that voter as inactive.
- (ii) If a county clerk receives a returned voter identification card, determines that there was no clerical error causing the card to be returned, and has no further information to contact the voter, the county clerk may list that voter as inactive.
 - (iii) An inactive voter shall be allowed to vote, sign petitions, and have all other privileges of a registered voter.
 - (iv) A county is not required to send routine mailings to an inactive voter and is not required to count inactive voters when dividing precincts and preparing supplies.

(5) Beginning on or before January 1, 2022, the lieutenant governor shall make available to a county clerk United States Social Security Administration data received by the lieutenant governor regarding deceased individuals.

(~~5~~6) A county clerk shall, within ~~five~~ten business days after the day on which the county clerk receives the information described in Subsection (5) or Subsections 26-2-13(11) and (12) relating to a decedent whose name appears on the official register, remove the decedent's name from the official register.

(7) Ninety days before a regular primary election and 90 days before a regular general election the lieutenant governor shall compare the information the lieutenant governor has received under Subsection 26-2-13(11) with the official register of voters to ensure that all deceased voters have been removed from the official register.

Section 2. Section 26-2-13 is amended to read:

26-2-13. Certificate of death -- Execution and registration requirements

Information provided to lieutenant governor.

(1) (a) A certificate of death for each death that occurs in this state shall be filed with the local registrar of the district in which the death occurs, or as otherwise directed by the state registrar, within five days after death and prior to the decedent's interment, any other disposal, or removal from the registration district where the death occurred.

(b) A certificate of death shall be registered if the certificate of death is completed and filed in accordance with this chapter.

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- (2) (a) If the place of death is unknown but the dead body is found in this state:
- (i) the certificate of death shall be completed and filed in accordance with this section; and
- (ii) the place where the dead body is found shall be shown as the place of death.
- (b) If the date of death is unknown, the date shall be determined by approximation.
- (3) (a) When death occurs in a moving conveyance in the United States and the decedent is first removed from the conveyance in this state:
- (i) the certificate of death shall be filed with:
- (A) the local registrar of the district where the decedent is removed; or
- (B) a person designated by the state registrar; and
- (ii) the place where the decedent is removed shall be considered the place of death.
- (b) When a death occurs on a moving conveyance outside the United States and the decedent is first removed from the conveyance in this state:
- (i) the certificate of death shall be filed with:
- (A) the local registrar of the district where the decedent is removed; or
- (B) a person designated by the state registrar; and
- (ii) the certificate of death shall show the actual place of death to the extent it can be determined.
- (4) (a) Subject to Subsections (4)(d) and (10), a custodial funeral service director or, if a funeral service director is not retained, a dispositioner shall sign the certificate of death.
- (b) The custodial funeral service director, an agent of the custodial funeral service director, or, if a funeral service director is not retained, a dispositioner shall:
- (i) file the certificate of death prior to any disposition of a dead body or fetus; and
- (ii) obtain the decedent's personal data from the next of kin or the best qualified person or source available, including the decedent's [Social Security] social security number, if known.
- (c) The certificate of death may not include the decedent's [Social Security] social security number.
- (d) A dispositioner may not sign a certificate of death, unless the signature is witnessed by the state registrar or a local registrar.
- (5) (a) Except as provided in Section 26-2-14, fetal death certificates, the medical section of the certificate of death shall be completed, signed, and returned to the funeral service

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director, or, if a funeral service director is not retained, a dispositioner, within 72 hours after death by the health care professional who was in charge of the decedent's care for the illness or condition which resulted in death, except when inquiry is required by Title 26, Chapter 4, Utah Medical Examiner Act.

(b) In the absence of the health care professional or with the health care professional's approval, the certificate of death may be completed and signed by an associate physician, the chief medical officer of the institution in which death occurred, or a physician who performed an autopsy upon the decedent, if:

- (i) the person has access to the medical history of the case;
- (ii) the person views the decedent at or after death; and
- (iii) the death is not due to causes required to be investigated by the medical examiner.

(6) When death occurs more than 30 days after the decedent was last treated by a health care professional, the case shall be referred to the medical examiner for investigation to determine and certify the cause, date, and place of death.

(7) When inquiry is required by Title 26, Chapter 4, Utah Medical Examiner Act, the medical examiner shall make an investigation and complete and sign the medical section of the certificate of death within 72 hours after taking charge of the case.

(8) If the cause of death cannot be determined within 72 hours after death:

- (a) the medical section of the certificate of death shall be completed as provided by department rule;
- (b) the attending health care professional or medical examiner shall give the funeral service director, or, if a funeral service director is not retained, a dispositioner, notice of the reason for the delay; and
- (c) final disposition of the decedent may not be made until authorized by the attending health care professional or medical examiner.

(9) (a) When a death is presumed to have occurred within this state but the dead body cannot be located, a certificate of death may be prepared by the state registrar upon receipt of an order of a Utah district court.

(b) The order described in Subsection (9)(a) shall include a finding of fact stating the name of the decedent, the date of death, and the place of death.

(c) A certificate of death prepared under Subsection (9)(a) shall:

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(i) show the date of registration; and

(ii) identify the court and the date of the order.

(10) It is unlawful for a dispositioner to charge for or accept any remuneration for:

(a) signing a certificate of death; or

(b) performing any other duty of a dispositioner, as described in this section.

(11) ~~{A local}~~ The state registrar shall, within five days after the day on which the ~~state~~ registrar or local registrar ~~receives~~ registers a certificate of death for a Utah resident, inform the ~~county clerk of the county of the decedent's most recent residence~~ lieutenant governor of:

(a) the decedent's name, last known residential address, date of birth, and date of death; and

(b) any other information requested by the ~~county clerk~~ lieutenant governor to assist the county clerk in identifying the decedent for the purpose of removing the decedent from the official register of voters.

(12) The lieutenant governor shall, within one business day after the day on which the lieutenant governor receives the information described in Subsection (11), provide the information to the county clerks.