

**One Hundred Second Legislature - Second Session - 2012**

**Introducer's Statement of Intent**

**LB1042**

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**Chairperson: Senator Kathy Campbell**

**Committee: Health and Human Services Date of Hearing: February 03, 2012**

The following constitutes the reasons for this bill and the purposes which are sought to be accomplished thereby:

LB 1042 is intended to authorize nurse practitioners to sign death certificates.

Nurse practitioners can be primary care providers. In the event a nurse practitioner's patient passes away, current law does not allow the nurse practitioner to sign the death certificate, even if the deceased was his or her patient for many years. Statute requires the medical portion of the death certificate to be signed by a physician or physician assistant within 24 hours of the death. If neither is available, the county attorney must be notified. This can make a difficult time for a family even more stressful.

Section 71-605, which provides authority for signing death certificates, was amended in 2009 (LB 195) to authorize physician assistants to sign death certificates. LB 1042 would amend 71-605 to include nurse practitioners. LB 1042 would also amend sections 38-2301 and 38-2315, which deal with nurse practitioners' function and scope. LB 1042's proposed changes to Section 38-2315 are modeled on language adopted in 2009 to authorize physician assistants to sign death certificates.

**Principal Introducer:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Senator Kathy Campbell**

