

underscored material = new
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HOUSE BILL 235

57TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - SECOND SESSION, 2026

INTRODUCED BY

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AN ACT

RELATING TO VITAL STATISTICS; EXPANDING REPORTING AND
INVESTIGATIONAL REQUIREMENTS RELATED TO SUDDEN UNEXPECTED
DEATHS OF YOUNG PERSONS.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO:

SECTION 1. A new section of the Vital Statistics Act is
enacted to read:

"[NEW MATERIAL] REPORTS OF SUDDEN UNEXPECTED DEATHS OF
YOUNG PERSONS.--

A. Each of the following types of deaths shall be
investigated through an autopsy that includes microscopic and
toxicologic studies and a review of the person's immunization
and medical records and reported to the state registrar and the
sudden unexpected infant death and sudden death in the young
case registry if the person was younger than twenty years of

.232747.1

1 age at the time of death:

2 (1) a sudden and unexpected death due to
3 cardiac arrhythmia, as determined by performance of an autopsy
4 or a clinical investigation, of a young, apparently healthy
5 person with no previously diagnosed structural heart disease;

6 (2) a sudden, unexpected and unexplained death
7 of a person younger than twenty years of age due to natural
8 causes; and

9 (3) a sudden and unexpected death of an infant
10 younger than one year of age, whether explained or unexplained.

11 B. An autopsy performed pursuant to this section
12 shall include a report on any immunizations administered to the
13 deceased person within ninety days of the person's death.

14 C. For the purposes of this section, "sudden
15 unexpected infant death and sudden death in the young case
16 registry" means the national surveillance system coordinated by
17 the federal centers for disease control and prevention and the
18 national institutes of health that collects standardized data
19 on sudden and unexpected deaths in persons younger than twenty
20 years of age."