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FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

SPONSOR: Hurt DATE TYPED: 02/8/01 HB _____
 SHORT TITLE: Allow Hospital Nurses to Pronounce Death SB 116/aSPAC
 ANALYST: Esquibel

APPROPRIATION

Appropriation Contained		Estimated Additional Impact		Recurring or Non-Rec	Fund Affected
FY01	FY02	FY01	FY02		
N/A					

(Parenthesis () Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

Board of Nursing
 Department of Health did not respond

SUMMARY

Synopsis of SPAC Amendments

The Senate Public Affairs Committee amendments to Senate Bill 116 specify that unless there is reasonable cause to believe that a death is not due to natural causes, a registered nurse employed by a nursing home may pronounce the death of a resident of the nursing home, and a registered nurse employed by a hospital may pronounce the death of a patient of the hospital.

The amendments also include clarifying language that a death shall be pronounced pursuant to procedures or facility protocols prescribed by the hospital *for patients*, or by the physician who is the medical director of the nursing home *for residents*.

Synopsis of Original Bill

Senate Bill 116 would allow registered nurses to pronounce the death of a patient at Department of Health-licensed hospitals.

Significant Issues

Nurses currently are able to pronounce death at nursing homes, but only doctors pronounce death at hospitals. The Board of Nursing indicates the workload of nurses may increase if they are required to pronounce death at hospitals.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

Senate Bill 116 contains no appropriation.

RAE/njw