

ASSEMBLY HEALTH COMMITTEE

STATEMENT TO

**ASSEMBLY, No. 2002**

**STATE OF NEW JERSEY**

DATED: FEBRUARY 3, 2022

The Assembly Health Committee reports favorably Assembly Bill No. 2002.

This bill requires the State registrar in the Department of Health to permit, upon the request of a county surrogate on behalf of an authorized person, a county surrogate to have real-time access, and facilitate a county surrogate's access, to the necessary vital statistics records in order for the county surrogate to provide a certified copy of a death certificate to the authorized person. Under the bill, the authorized person is required to be otherwise engaged in receiving services provided by the requesting county surrogate. Under current law, an authorized person includes the following: the parent, legal guardian or other legal representative of the subject of that record; the subject's spouse, child, grandchild or sibling, if of legal age, or the subject's legal representative; an agency of State or federal government for official purposes; a person possessing an order of a court of competent jurisdiction; or a person who is authorized under other emergent circumstances as determined by the Commissioner of Health. The bill also clarifies that an authorized person may obtain a certified copy of a death certificate from a county surrogate.

This bill was pre-filed for introduction in the 2022-2023 session pending technical review. As reported, the bill includes the changes required by technical review, which has been performed.