

## **BILL ANALYSIS**

Senate Research Center

H.B. 2185  
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### **DIGEST AND PURPOSE**

Currently, if an individual is believed to have been killed in a catastrophic event issuance of a death certificate is extremely burdensome. Only after an extended period of time, or through litigation, is a death certificate finally issued. H.B. 2185 seeks to streamline the death certificate process in cases of death by catastrophe.

### **RULEMAKING AUTHORITY**

This bill does not expressly grant any additional rulemaking authority to a state officer, institution, or agency.

### **SECTION BY SECTION ANALYSIS**

SECTION 1. Amends Chapter 193, Health and Safety Code, by adding Section 193.010, as follows:

Sec. 193.010. CERTIFICATE OF DEATH BY CATASTROPHE. (a) Defines “catastrophe.”

(b) Requires a local registrar to issue and file a certificate of death by catastrophe for a person if an affidavit, stating certain information, is submitted to the registrar.

(c) Authorizes the Texas Department of Health to issue a certificate of death by catastrophe for a minor or a person for whom a guardian has been appointed who is the subject of a custody or guardianship dispute only if all parties to the dispute submit an affidavit under Subsection (b).

(d) Requires an insurer to accept as proof of death of an insured a certificate of death by catastrophe issued under this section.

SECTION 2. Effective date: September 1, 2003.