

Extracts from Public Act No. 217 of 1897 (Compiled Laws of 1897, Secs. 4614-4620).

AN ACT to provide for the registration of deaths in Michigan and requiring certificates of death.

SECTION 1. *The People of the State of Michigan enact,* That the body of no person whose death occurs in the State shall be interred, deposited in a vault or tomb or otherwise disposed of, or removed from the township, village or city in which the death occurred, until a permit for burial or removal shall have been properly issued by the clerk of the township, village or city in which the death occurs, who shall be the registrar of deaths. \* \* \* \* \*

SEC. 2. Whenever any person shall die, the undertaker, householder, relative, friend, manager of institution, sexton or other person superintending the burial of said deceased person, shall cause a certificate of death to be filled out with all of the personal and family particulars required in section three of this act, and attested by the signature of a relative or some competent person acquainted with the facts. The physician who attended the deceased person during his last illness shall fill out the medical certificate of cause of death, which death certificate shall be delivered to the registrar within the time designated, if any, by the local board of health. In case of death without the attendance of a physician, or if it shall appear probable that the deceased person came to his death by unlawful or suspicious means, then the registrar shall refer the certificate to the health officer or coroner for immediate investigation and report prior to issuing the permit: *Provided,* That when the health officer is not a physician, and only in such case, the registrar is authorized to insert the facts relating to the cause of death from statements of relatives or other competent testimony. Upon the presentation of a certificate of death properly filled out and signed, the registrar shall issue a permit for the burial or removal of the body and shall immediately record the death in the register of deaths, numbering all certificates consecutively in the order in which they are received, beginning with number 1 for the first death that occurs in each year. In deaths from *dangerous communicable diseases*, burial or removal permits shall be granted by the registrar only in accordance with the rules of the local board of health and of the State Board of Health relating thereto. The sexton or other person having charge of the interment or final disposition of the body shall retain the burial permit when presented to him by the undertaker: *Provided,* That when a body is shipped the removal permit shall be presented by the undertaker or other person shipping the same to the agent of the transportation company, and shall be attached by him, with the transit permit, to the box containing the body, to accompany the same to destination, and no transit permit shall be issued or received by any transportation company for the shipment of a body unless accompanied by the registrar's removal permit.

SEC. 4. Registers of death shall be supplied by the Secretary of State to registrars for recording certificates of death, together with all blanks required for the execution of this act. On the fourth day of each month the registrar of each township, village and city shall promptly transmit to the Secretary of State, in an official envelope provided by the State, and stamped with one full letter stamp, all the certificates of death filed in his office during the preceding calendar month, with a statement of the number of deaths so reported. If no deaths occurred, he shall make a return to that effect upon a postal card blank.

SEC. 6. Any official failing or refusing to perform his duty under this act, or any undertaker violating any of its provisions, shall, upon conviction thereof, be deemed guilty of a misdemeanor, and shall be punished by a fine of not less than five dollars and not exceeding one hundred dollars, or be imprisoned in the county jail not exceeding thirty days, or suffer both fine and imprisonment at the discretion of the court. *Local registrars shall see that the provisions of this act are enforced in their jurisdictions;* the Secretary of State shall be charged with the general execution of the law and shall have supervisory power over registrars, to the end that this act shall be uniformly and effectually executed throughout the State. Prosecuting attorneys shall, upon the request of a local registrar or of the Secretary of State, assist in the enforcement of the provisions of this act.

Copies of the Registration Law will be supplied by the  
Secretary of State on application.