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HOUSE REPUBLICAN STAFF ANALYSIS

Bill: House File 393
Committee: Human Resources
Floor Manager: Representative Linda Miller
Date: July 14, 2011
Staff: Brad Trow (1-3471)

Allowing Advanced Registered Nurse Practitioners & Physician Assistants to Sign a Death Certificate

House File 393 changes Iowa law to allow advanced registered nurse practitioners and physician assistants to sign the death certificates of the patients when those providers are in charge of their care.

Summary of Action

Committee Action – The Human Resources Committee **PASSED** House Study Bill 24 (House File 393) on a vote of 18-2 on February 21, 2011.

House Action – The House **ADOPTED** House File 393 on a vote of 93-5 on March 9, 2011.

Senate Action – The Senate **ADOPTED** House File 393 on a vote of 50-0 on March 28, 2011.

Final Action – The Governor **SIGNED** House File 393 on April 6, 2011.

Section by Section Analysis

Section 1 – The section amends Iowa Code section 142C.8 (10) by adding “advanced registered nurse practitioner” and “physician assistant” to the prohibition that a doctor that attends the death of a person or who pronounces death cannot participate in the removal or transplanting of the deceased person’s organs.

Section 2 – The section amends Iowa Code section 144.26 (1) by adding that an advanced registered nurse practitioner or a physician assistant may sign a death certificate. The section also sets the conditions under which the ARNP may sign. They are:

- The ARNP or PA is licensed to practice in Iowa;
- The ARNP or PA is in charge of the deceased person’s care; and

Section 3 – The section adds “advanced registered nurse practitioner” and “physician assistant” to who may fill out a death certificate in the Medical Certification subsection of chapter 144 (144.28).