

**HOUSE . . . . . No. 585**

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**The Commonwealth of Massachusetts**

PRESENTED BY:

***Todd M. Smola***

*To the Honorable Senate and House of Representatives of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts in General Court assembled:*

The undersigned legislators and/or citizens respectfully petition for the adoption of the accompanying bill:

An Act relative to insurance companies and death certificates.

PETITION OF:

NAME:

DISTRICT/ADDRESS:

*Todd M. Smola*

*1st Hampden*

*Susan Williams Gifford*

*2nd Plymouth*

**HOUSE . . . . . No. 585**

By Mr. Smola of Warren, a petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 585) of Todd M. Smola and Susan Williams Gifford relative to insurance companies and death certificates. Financial Services.

[SIMILAR MATTER FILED IN PREVIOUS SESSION  
SEE HOUSE, NO. 955 OF 2015-2016.]

**The Commonwealth of Massachusetts**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**In the One Hundred and Ninetieth General Court  
(2017-2018)**  
\_\_\_\_\_

An Act relative to insurance companies and death certificates.

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:*

1 SECTION 1. Section 4 of chapter 38 of the General Laws, as appearing in the 2012  
2 Official Edition, is hereby amended adding the following paragraph:-

3 If, in carrying out the duties prescribed by this section, the inquiry and investigation into  
4 the cause and circumstances of a death shall require the chief medical examiner, or his designee,  
5 to list the cause of death on a death certificate issued by the chief medical examiner, or such  
6 designee, as pending, the office shall, at the request of a beneficiary of the decedent’s life  
7 insurance policy, issue a letter to the decedent’s insurer regarding the beneficiary’s role in the  
8 decedent’s death or lack thereof.

9           SECTION 2. Section 132 of chapter 175 of the General Laws, as so appearing, is hereby  
10 amended by inserting in the first paragraph, after subparagraph 12, the following subparagraph:-

11           13. A provision that the company shall process a claim filed by a beneficiary upon the  
12 death of the policy holder upon receiving, in lieu of a certified copy of a death certificate with  
13 cause of death listed, an official copy of a death certificate with cause of death listed as pending  
14 and a letter from the office of the chief medical officer pursuant to the fifth paragraph of section  
15 4 of chapter 38.