

By: Representative Banks

To: Public Health and
Welfare

HOUSE BILL NO. 1021

1 AN ACT TO REQUIRE THE ATTENDING PHYSICIAN OF A DECEASED
2 PERSON TO SIGN THE DEATH CERTIFICATE FOR THE DECEASED PERSON
3 WITHIN TEN DAYS AFTER IT IS PRESENTED TO THE PHYSICIAN; TO PROVIDE
4 A PENALTY FOR VIOLATIONS OF THIS ACT; AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

5 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MISSISSIPPI:

6 **SECTION 1.** (1) Any physician in charge of the care of a
7 deceased person, who is presented a certificate of death for the
8 deceased person by the funeral home that handled the funeral
9 arrangements for the deceased, the medical examiner or the State
10 Department of Health, shall sign the certificate of death within
11 ten (10) working days after the certificate is presented to him or
12 her, or provide the presenter of the certificate with a
13 satisfactory explanation for his or her refusal or inability to
14 sign the certificate.

15 (2) Any physician who violates the provisions of subsection
16 (1) of this section is guilty of a misdemeanor and, upon
17 conviction, shall be fined not more than One Hundred Dollars
18 (\$100.00).

19 **SECTION 2.** This act shall take effect and be in force from
20 and after July 1, 2002.

