



City of Highland

Penny Lilburn, Member
District 3

Larry McCallon, Member
District 5

Legislative Subcommittee Special Meeting Agenda

April 1, 2026 at 4:30 PM
City Hall Upright Conference Room
27215 Base Line, Highland, CA 92346

Staff

Carlos Zamano, City Manager
Leticia Nava-Cruz, Director of Administrative Services/City Treasurer
Lawrence Mainez, Community Development Director
Maricela Marroquin, City Attorney
Lissette Nock, Deputy City Clerk

Mission Statement

Highland is dedicated to the betterment of the individual, the family, the neighborhood and the community. The City Council and the staff of Highland are dedicated to providing the quality of public facilities and services that its citizens are willing to fund and will do so as efficiently as possible.

In compliance with the Brown Act, any writings or documents provided to a majority of the legislative body regarding any item on this agenda, that are not exempt from disclosure under the California Public Records Act, will be made available for public inspection at City Hall, 27215 Base Line Highland, CA 92346, during normal business hours. Such documents will also be made available on the City's website at www.highlandca.gov.

In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), if you need special assistance, please contact the City Clerk's office at (909) 864-6861, ext. 226, at least 72 hours prior to the meeting for any requests for reasonable accommodations, including interpreters.

Levine Act: Pursuant to Government Code Section 84308, any party to a City proceeding must disclose on the record any campaign contributions made to a member of the City Council (or commission) in excess of \$500 in the past 12 months. This disclosure requirement includes contributions by the party's agent and aggregated contributions from persons or entities related to the party. Please make the disclosure as soon as possible, but no later than the beginning of the proceeding.

Call to Order

Public Comment

Limited to items on this agenda only. To address the Legislative Subcommittee, please complete a speaker form located at the entrance prior to the beginning of the meeting. For those wishing to make public comments by email, please submit your comments by 3:30 p.m. on April 1, 2026, to publiccomment@highlandca.gov. Please identify the agenda item number in the subject line. Emailed comments will be distributed to the Subcommittee and retained as part of the public record; however, submissions will not be read out loud during the meeting.

Business Items

1. Minutes - July 30, 2025 Legislative Subcommittee Meeting
Approve the Minutes as submitted.
2. Senate Bill 1071 (Bogh) Death Certificates: Amending the Manner of Death
Review and provide direction whether to send a Letter of Support to the legislature.

Adjourn

Certification

I, Alondra Muñoz, City Clerk, or my designee, hereby certify that the foregoing agenda was posted on our website at www.highlandca.gov and in the following designated areas: Highland Branch Library (7863 Central Avenue), Fire Station No. 1 (26974 Base Line), and City Hall (27215 Base Line) at least twenty-four (24) hours prior to the meeting per Government Code Section 54956.



Staff Report

to the Legislative Subcommittee

Agenda
Item
No.1.

Date: April 1, 2026
From: Carlos Zamano, City Manager
Reviewed By: Alondra Muñoz, City Clerk
Prepared By: Lissette Nock, Deputy City Clerk
Subject: Minutes - July 30, 2025 Legislative Subcommittee Meeting

Recommendation:

Approve the Minutes as submitted.

Fiscal Impact:

None

Public Notice:

The agenda for this item was posted at the three locations per Resolution No. 2011-047 and on the City's website.

Background:

The Legislative Subcommittee is required to maintain an official record of its proceedings. Minutes serve as the permanent record of actions taken by the Legislative Subcommittee and provide transparency to the public regarding the business conducted at each meeting. In accordance with standard practice, the draft minutes from the July 30, 2025, Legislative Subcommittee Meeting have been prepared and are submitted for the Legislative Subcommittee's review and approval.

Attachments:

1. Minutes - July 30, 2025 Legislative Subcommittee Meeting

CALL TO ORDER

The Legislative Subcommittee Special Meeting was called to order at 10:05 a.m. in the Upright Conference Room, 27215 Base Line, Highland, California.

ROLL CALL

Present: Lilburn, McCallon
Absent: None

PUBLIC COMMENT

None

BUSINESS ITEMS

1. Minutes - July 16, 2025
Approved the Minutes as submitted.
2. Senate Bill 346 (Durazo) Transient Occupancy Taxes: Short-Term Rental Facilitator
Reviewed and provided direction to send a Letter of Support to the legislature.

ADJOURN

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 10:14 a.m.

Submitted by:

Approved by:

Lissette Nock, Deputy City Clerk

Subcommittee Member



Staff Report

to the Legislative Subcommittee

Agenda
Item
No.2.

Date: April 1, 2026
From: Carlos Zamano, City Manager
Reviewed By: Alondra Muñoz, City Clerk
Prepared By: Alondra Muñoz, City Clerk
Subject: Senate Bill 1071 (Bogh) Death Certificates: Amending the Manner of Death

Recommendation:

Review and provide direction whether to send a Letter of Support to the legislature.

Fiscal Impact:

None.

Public Notice:

The agenda for this item was posted at the three locations per Resolution No. 2011-047 and on the City's website.

Background:

Senate Bill 1071 (SB 1071) proposes to allow death certificates to be amended when a court determines a death was the result of a homicide. Under current practice, some deaths resulting from criminal acts may initially be classified as "accidental."

The bill would permit surviving family members to request an update to the manner of death following a final court determination. The measure is scheduled to be heard by the Senate Health Committee on April 8, 2026.

The intent of the legislation is to improve accuracy and consistency in official records while recognizing the circumstances of the death. Accurate death certificate data is also used in public health research and policy development, including areas such as traffic safety, substance use, and violent crime trends.

Attachments:

1. SB 1071 (Ochoa Bogh) Not an Accident Fact Sheet
2. SB 1071 (Ochoa Bogh) Sample Support Letter

ATTACHMENT 1



Senate Bill 1071: Death Certificates: Amending the Manner of Death “Not an Accident”

Summary

Senate Bill 1071 would provide a legal mechanism to amend the manner of death on a death certificate after a court judgment to ensure that the manner of death is not classified as an accident when there is a legal finding of homicide.

Issue

Following a person’s death, a death certificate is issued that lists both a **cause of death** and **manner of death**.

A person’s cause of death is determined by a doctor, medical examiner, or coroner and is based on the medical cause of death, such as asphyxiation, gunshot wound, blunt force trauma, etc. Based on the autopsy and other facts related to the death, there are a wide variety of causes that can be listed.

On the other hand, the manner of death is limited to only five categories: homicide, accident, natural, suicide, and undetermined.

Both the cause and manner of a person’s death are transmitted to the State Registrar and the Department of Public Health–Vital Records (CDPH-VR), where it is used to form the basis for the issuance of a certified death certificate.

The information is also used by the CDPH to compile vital statistics and data that inform public health research and policy development. Additionally, the public may use the California Vital Data Query tool¹ to run queries on this

information. One of the options is to classify by manner of death.

Existing Law

Under current law, only next of kin may request an amendment to the cause of death if the request is accompanied by a physician’s certification.²

Next of kin may also request an amendment to correct typographical errors to personal information on a death certificate.

However, existing law does not provide a path for next of kin to amend the manner of death.

Background

When a victim is killed by a drunk or impaired driver, the medical examiner or coroner classifies the manner of death as an accident, not a homicide. This is because, at the time of the autopsy, the pathologist does not have all the information necessary to rule it a homicide.

However, after a court has considered the facts and circumstances that led to the victim’s death, and the court has rendered a judgment, this can lead to a legal determination of homicide.

Once all appellate rights have been exhausted, the victim’s next of kin should be allowed to use the legal determination by a court to request that a loved one’s official death certificate list the manner of death as homicide, not accident.

¹ [Cal-ViDa](#): California Vital Data Query Tool

² [CA Department of Public Health](#)

This will ensure that legal judgments by courts of law are accurately reflected on a victim's official death certificate.

More information on the *Not an Accident* campaign can be found at <http://notanaccident.info/>

Solution

SB 1071 would allow a victim's next of kin to request an amendment to a loved one's death certificate to ensure that it reflects the legal finding of the manner of death.

Bill text and status can be found at <http://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/>

The bill does not attempt to change a physician's or pathologist's autopsy protocol or a coroner's report, but rather to provide an official record that reflects a court's legal determination.

This change in the law will provide better statistics and data to inform public health, criminal justice, research, and policy systems at multiple levels.

SB 1071 is about truth and justice for victims and their families. Drunk and impaired driving deaths are up in California, and death certificates should accurately categorize these deaths as homicides, not accidents.

For More Information

Staff:

Tanya Vandrick
tanya.vandrick@sen.ca.gov
(916) 651-4276

Sponsors:

Riverside County District Attorney's Office
Ivy Fitzpatrick, Chief Deputy District Attorney
IvyFitzpatrick@RivCoDA.org
(951) 955-5572

Not an Accident Campaign

Candace Lightner, Co-Founder
clightner@wesavelives.org
(703) 296-4708

Matt Capelouto, Co-Founder
matt@stopdrughomicide.org
(951) 401-4222

We Save Lives

Candace Lightner, Founder
clightner@wesavelives.org
(703) 296-4708

ATTACHMENT 2

April 1, 2026

Senator Weber Pierson, Chair
Senate Health Committee
1021 O Street, Room 3310
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: Senate Bill 1071 (Ochoa Bogh): Death Certificates - SUPPORT

Dear Senator Weber Pierson,

The City of Highland is pleased to support Senate Bill 1017, which provides a legal mechanism to amend the manner of death on a death certificate after a court judgment to ensure that the manner of death is not classified as an accident when there is a legal finding of homicide.

When a person dies, there is both a cause and manner of death listed on the death certificate. Cause of death is the literal medical cause of the death and is certified by a physician or the Medical Examiner/Coroner if an autopsy is performed. Manner of death is more limited than the cause with only 5 categories: homicide, accident, natural, suicide, and undetermined. While the manner of death is listed on the death certificate, only cause is certified by the physician or medical examiner.

SB 1071 would provide a legal mechanism to amend the manner of death on the death certificate after a court judgment. Currently, next of kin can only request an amendment to cause of death – not manner of death – and can only get the cause of death amended with a physician’s certification. There is no mechanism to request an amendment to manner of death.

The City of Highland supports SB 1071 as it aligns with regional efforts to address impaired driving and substance-related fatalities in the Inland Empire. Research analyzing crash data in San Bernardino County shows higher fatality rates compared to neighboring regions, with alcohol-impaired driving contributing significantly to these outcomes. At the same time, overdose deaths have surged in recent years, exceeding 400 annually with preliminary 2024 data indicating a potential decline to approximately 360 deaths for the 12-month period ending in Q2. Despite this decrease, fatalities remain significantly elevated. When deaths resulting from impaired driving or toxic exposures are classified as “accidental,” it can obscure the true impact of these incidents on communities like Highland. SB 1071 would help ensure that official records reflect court-determined findings, improving the accuracy of data used to inform local public safety strategies and prevention efforts.

This change not only provides a measure of justice to the victim’s family and a truthful record of their loved one’s death, it also provides better statistics and data to inform public health, criminal justice, research, and policy systems at multiple levels. SB 1071 is about truth and justice for victims and their families. Drunk and impaired driving deaths are up in California and death certificates should accurately categorize these deaths as homicides, not accidents.

SB 1071 ensures that California’s official death records reflect the truth by recognizing our courts’ legal determinations of homicide, honoring victims and their families, and strengthening the data that guides public policy. For these reasons, The City of Highland respectfully asks for your AYE vote on SB 1017 when it comes before your committee.

Sincerely,

Penny Lilburn
Mayor
City of Highland