

REVISED LEGISLATIVE DIGEST
(Amended in Committee February 27, 2020.)

[Health Code - Medical Examiner Reports of Drug Overdose Deaths]

Ordinance amending the Health Code to require the Medical Examiner to report information to the Mayor, Board of Supervisors, and Director of Health once every four months regarding deaths arising from drug overdoses.

Existing Law

Existing law does not require the Office of the Chief Medical Examiner to report information about deaths arising from drug overdoses to the Board of Supervisors or the Mayor.

Existing law requires people filing death certificates with the City to submit a report to the Department of Public Health with additional information when the deceased person was homeless at the time of the person's death.

Amendments to Current Law

The proposed ordinance would require people filing death certificates with the City to submit a report to the Office of the Chief Medical Examiner (OCME) with additional information when the deceased person died of causes arising from a drug overdose. The report would include information about the decedent's race, ethnicity, age, and sex; the cause of death; the drug or drugs that contributed to the decedent's death; the date of death; the San Francisco neighborhood in which the decedent resided, if the decedent was a San Francisco resident; and whether the decedent was homeless. The ordinance would require OCME to make available a form that people could use to prepare the report.

The ordinance would require OCME to submit a separate report once every four months summarizing aggregate information about deaths arising from overdoses, based on the information provided in the individual reports received by the OCME.