

## **Meriden’s Law—Certificates of Birth Resulting in Stillbirth; SB 258**

**SB 258** enacts Meriden’s Law, which is made part of and supplemental to the Uniform Vital Statistics Act. The bill requires the State Registrar to establish a certificate of birth resulting in stillbirth that contains personal and demographic information describing the stillbirth event. The bill prohibits the inclusion of information relating to the child’s death, however, and states the certificate is not proof of a live birth.

In continuing law, the bill replaces “product of human conception” with “human child” in the definition of “live birth.” Additionally, the bill amends the definition of “stillbirth” to mean any complete expulsion or extraction from its mother of a human child the gestational age of which is not less than 20 completed weeks, resulting in other than a live birth and which is not an induced termination of pregnancy. “Gestational age” is defined as the age of the human child as measured in weeks as determined by either the last date of the mother’s menstrual period, or a sonogram conducted prior to the twentieth week of pregnancy or the confirmed known date of conception. Additionally, the bill strikes the definition of “induced termination of pregnancy.” Instead, “induced termination of pregnancy” means “abortion” as defined elsewhere in statute. Finally, the bill strikes “fetus” in a section requiring a funeral director or person acting as such who first assumes custody of a dead body to file the death certificate.