§ 4148. Electronic death registration system. 1. The department is hereby authorized and directed to design, implement and maintain an electronic death registration system for collecting, storing, recording, transmitting, amending, correcting and authenticating information, as necessary and appropriate to complete a death registration, and to generate such documents as determined by the department in relation to a death occurring in this state. As part of the design and implementation of the system established by this section, the department shall consult with all persons authorized to use such system to the extent practicable and feasible. Except as specifically provided in this section, the existing general duties of, and remuneration received by, local registrars in accepting and filing certificates of death and issuing burial and removal permits pursuant to any statute or regulation shall be maintained, and not altered or abridged in any way by this section.

2. Commencing on the implementation date, the department shall require that deaths occurring within this state must be registered using the electronic death registration system established in this section. Electronic death registration may be phased in, as determined by the commissioner, for deaths occurring in the state until the electronic death registration system is fully implemented in the state. As used in this section, "implementation date" means the first day in January in the second year after this section becomes a law, or as soon thereafter as the commissioner reasonably determines by regulation is feasible in light of the intent of this section.

3. Commencing on the implementation date, all persons required to register a death or file a certificate of death under this article, and such others as may be authorized by the commissioner, shall have access to the electronic death registration system for the purpose of entering information required to execute, complete and file a certificate of death or to retrieve such information or generate documentation from the electronic death registration system. The confidentiality provisions in section forty-one hundred forty-seven of this title shall apply to information maintained in this system.

4. Notwithstanding any provision of law to the contrary, commencing on

or after January first, two thousand fifteen, or on such date determined by the commissioner pursuant to subdivision two of this section, any requirement of this title for a signature of any person shall be deemed satisfied by the use by such person of digital signature provided such person is authorized in accordance with this section to use the electronic death registration system.