
This act summary is provided for the convenience of the public and members of the General Assembly. It is intended to provide a general summary of the act and may not be exhaustive. It has been prepared by the staff of the Office of Legislative Council without input from members of the General Assembly. It is not intended to aid in the interpretation of legislation or to serve as a source of legislative intent.

Act No. 46 (H.111). Public records; health; Executive Branch; municipal government; judiciary

An act relating to vital records

This act:

- Statewide Registration System. Requires the State Registrar of Vital Records (State Registrar) to operate a Statewide Registration System, which as of July 1, 2018 will be the sole official repository of data from birth and death certificates registered on or after January 1, 1909.
- Registration of Birth and Death Certificates. Transfers responsibility for registering birth and death certificates from town clerks to the State Registrar and requires the State Registrar to register such certificates in the Statewide Registration System.
- Authority to Issue Birth and Death Certificates; Issuance from Statewide Registration System. Provides that, with certain exceptions, only town clerks and duly authorized representatives of the State Registrar (collectively, “issuing agents”) and the State Registrar are authorized to issue certified and noncertified copies of birth and death certificates registered on or after July 1, 2018 and certified copies of birth and death certificates registered prior to July 1, 2018, and that such copies shall only be issued from the Statewide Registration System.
- Eligibility for Certified Copies of Birth and Death Certificates. Limits the issuance of certified copies of birth and death certificates so that only specific persons are eligible to receive certified copies.
- Application for Certified Copies of Birth and Death Certificates. Requires that all requests for a certified copy of a birth or death certificate be made upon application accompanied by a reliable type of identification, and that the State Registrar and issuing agents record such applications in a central database maintained by the State Registrar.
- Duties and Authority of State Registrar. Directs the State Registrar to operate a Vital Records Alert System in order to track and prevent fraud or illegal activities in connection with vital records; directs the State Registrar to match

birth and death records; and confers rule making and other authority on the State Registrar.

- Amended, Delayed, and New Certificates. Transfers responsibilities from the Probate Division to the State Registrar for initial applications to amend birth and death certificates; to issue new birth certificates; and to issue delayed birth certificates.
- Administrative penalties. Authorizes the Commissioner of Health to impose administrative penalties for violations of the vital records laws.
- Miscellaneous changes. Makes other miscellaneous and conforming changes to laws related to vital records.

Multiple effective dates, beginning on May 22, 2017