

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE BILL

No. 1963 Session of 2024

INTRODUCED BY PIELLI, WEBSTER, D. MILLER, HILL-EVANS, McNEILL, GUENST, SHUSTERMAN, MENTZER, SANCHEZ, VENKAT, CERRATO, PARKER, WATRO, KINSEY, MALAGARI, ROZZI, GALLAGHER, HARKINS, BOYD, PASHINSKI, DONAHUE, DEASY, STEELE, HANBIDGE, KENYATTA, GIRAL, BOROWSKI, STEHR, PROBST, HADDOCK, NEILSON, SCOTT, DALEY, JOZWIAK, KHAN, DELLOSO, GREEN, GILLEN AND FLEMING, JANUARY 31, 2024

AS REPORTED FROM COMMITTEE ON HEALTH, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, AS AMENDED, MAY 21, 2024

AN ACT

1 ~~Amending the act of June 29, 1953 (P.L.304, No.66), entitled "An~~ <--
2 ~~act providing for the administration of a statewide system of~~
3 ~~vital statistics; prescribing the functions of the State~~
4 ~~Department of Health, the State Advisory Health Board and~~
5 ~~local registrars; imposing duties upon coroners,~~
6 ~~prothonotaries, clerks of orphans' court, physicians,~~
7 ~~midwives and other persons; requiring reports and~~
8 ~~certificates for the registration of vital statistics;~~
9 ~~regulating the disposition of dead bodies; limiting the~~
10 ~~disclosure of records; prescribing the sufficiency of vital~~
11 ~~statistics records as evidence; prescribing fees and~~
12 ~~penalties; and revising and consolidating the laws relating~~
13 ~~thereto," in records, further providing for fees for copies.~~
14 AMENDING THE ACT OF JUNE 29, 1953 (P.L.304, NO.66), ENTITLED "AN <--
15 ACT PROVIDING FOR THE ADMINISTRATION OF A STATEWIDE SYSTEM OF
16 VITAL STATISTICS; PRESCRIBING THE FUNCTIONS OF THE STATE
17 DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH, THE STATE ADVISORY HEALTH BOARD AND
18 LOCAL REGISTRARS; IMPOSING DUTIES UPON CORONERS,
19 PROTHONOTARIES, CLERKS OF ORPHANS' COURT, PHYSICIANS,
20 MIDWIVES AND OTHER PERSONS; REQUIRING REPORTS AND
21 CERTIFICATES FOR THE REGISTRATION OF VITAL STATISTICS;
22 REGULATING THE DISPOSITION OF DEAD BODIES; LIMITING THE
23 DISCLOSURE OF RECORDS; PRESCRIBING THE SUFFICIENCY OF VITAL
24 STATISTICS RECORDS AS EVIDENCE; PRESCRIBING FEES AND
25 PENALTIES; AND REVISING AND CONSOLIDATING THE LAWS RELATING
26 THERETO," IN GENERAL PROVISIONS, FURTHER PROVIDING FOR
27 DEFINITIONS; AND, IN RECORDS, FURTHER PROVIDING FOR FEES FOR
28 COPIES.

1 The General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania
2 hereby enacts as follows:

3 ~~Section 1. Section 807(c) of the act of June 29, 1953~~ <--
4 ~~(P.L.304, No.66), known as the Vital Statistics Law of 1953, is~~
5 ~~amended to read:~~

6 ~~Section 807. Records: Fees for Copies. * * *~~

7 ~~(c) No fee shall be charged for certified copies of records~~
8 ~~or parts thereof furnished [members] to:~~

9 ~~(1) a member of the armed forces of the United States [and~~
10 ~~their dependents] during [their] the member's term of active~~
11 ~~service and after [their death in service or] the member's~~
12 ~~honorable discharge therefrom[.]; and~~

13 ~~(2) the surviving spouse and dependents of a member of the~~
14 ~~armed forces of the United States during a term of active~~
15 ~~service and after the member's death, whether or not in service,~~
16 ~~or the member's honorable discharge therefrom.~~

17 ~~Section 2. This act shall take effect in 60 days.~~

18 SECTION 1. SECTION 105 INTRODUCTORY PARAGRAPH OF THE ACT OF <--
19 JUNE 29, 1953 (P.L.304, NO.66), KNOWN AS THE VITAL STATISTICS
20 LAW OF 1953, IS AMENDED TO READ:

21 SECTION 105. GENERAL PROVISIONS: DEFINITIONS.--AS USED IN
22 THIS ACT, THE FOLLOWING WORDS AND PHRASES SHALL HAVE THE
23 MEANINGS GIVEN TO THEM IN THIS SECTION UNLESS THE CONTEXT
24 CLEARLY INDICATES OTHERWISE--

25 * * *

26 SECTION 2. SECTION 807(C) OF THE ACT IS AMENDED AND THE
27 SECTION IS AMENDED BY ADDING SUBSECTIONS TO READ:

28 SECTION 807. RECORDS: FEES FOR COPIES.--* * *

29 [(C) NO FEE SHALL BE CHARGED FOR CERTIFIED COPIES OF RECORDS
30 OR PARTS THEREOF FURNISHED MEMBERS OF THE ARMED FORCES OF THE

1 UNITED STATES AND THEIR DEPENDENTS DURING THEIR TERM OF ACTIVE
2 SERVICE AND AFTER THEIR DEATH IN SERVICE OR HONORABLE DISCHARGE
3 THEREFROM.]

4 (D) SUBJECT TO SUBSECTION (E), NO FEE SHALL BE CHARGED FOR
5 CERTIFIED COPIES OF RECORDS OR PARTS THEREOF FOR ANY OF THE
6 FOLLOWING:

7 (1) AN INDIVIDUAL WHO CURRENTLY SERVES IN THE UNITED STATES
8 ARMED FORCES, INCLUDING A RESERVE COMPONENT OR THE NATIONAL
9 GUARD.

10 (2) A MEMBER OF THE UNITED STATES ARMED FORCES, INCLUDING A
11 RESERVE COMPONENT OR THE NATIONAL GUARD, WHO WAS KILLED OR DIES
12 WHILE ON OFFICIAL DUTY STATUS AUTHORIZED UNDER FEDERAL OR STATE
13 LAW.

14 (3) A VETERAN.

15 (4) A SPOUSE OF AN INDIVIDUAL SPECIFIED UNDER PARAGRAPH (1),
16 (2) OR (3).

17 (5) A DEPENDENT OF AN INDIVIDUAL SPECIFIED UNDER PARAGRAPH
18 (1), (2) OR (3). THIS PARAGRAPH SHALL ONLY APPLY TO A REQUEST
19 MADE FOR A CERTIFIED COPY OF A CERTIFICATE OF BIRTH.

20 (E) THE FEE WAIVER UNDER SUBSECTION (D) SHALL ONLY APPLY TO
21 THE FOLLOWING APPLICANTS FOR CERTIFIED COPIES OF RECORDS OR
22 PARTS THEREOF:

23 (1) AN APPLICANT WHO IS AN INDIVIDUAL SPECIFIED UNDER
24 SUBSECTION (D) (1) OR (3).

25 (2) AN APPLICANT WHO IS A SPOUSE OF AN INDIVIDUAL SPECIFIED
26 UNDER SUBSECTION (D) (1), (2) OR (3).

27 (3) AN APPLICANT WHO IS A REPRESENTATIVE OF A DEPENDENT
28 CHILD OF A DECEASED VETERAN OR AN INDIVIDUAL SPECIFIED UNDER
29 SUBSECTION (D) (2). THIS PARAGRAPH SHALL ONLY APPLY TO A REQUEST
30 MADE FOR A CERTIFIED COPY OF A CERTIFICATE OF DEATH.

1 (4) AN APPLICANT WHO IS A REPRESENTATIVE OF THE ESTATE OF AN
2 INDIVIDUAL SPECIFIED UNDER SUBSECTION (D) (1), (2), (3) OR (4).
3 THIS PARAGRAPH SHALL ONLY APPLY TO A REQUEST MADE FOR A
4 CERTIFIED COPY OF A CERTIFICATE OF DEATH.

5 (5) AN APPLICANT THAT IS A FUNERAL ESTABLISHMENT RESPONSIBLE
6 FOR FILING THE DEATH RECORD OF AN INDIVIDUAL SPECIFIED UNDER
7 SUBSECTION (D) (1), (2), (3) OR (4). THIS PARAGRAPH SHALL ONLY
8 APPLY TO A REQUEST MADE FOR A CERTIFIED COPY OF A CERTIFICATE OF
9 DEATH.

10 (F) THE FEE WAIVER UNDER SUBSECTION (D) SHALL APPLY
11 REGARDLESS OF WHETHER AN INDIVIDUAL SPECIFIED UNDER SUBSECTION
12 (D) (2) OR (3) PREDECEASED OR SURVIVED ANY OTHER INDIVIDUAL WHO
13 QUALIFIES FOR THE FEE WAIVER.

14 (G) THE FEE WAIVER UNDER SUBSECTION (D) SHALL APPLY TO THE
15 FIRST TEN CERTIFIED COPIES OF THE SAME RECORD OR PARTS THEREOF
16 DURING A CALENDAR YEAR FOR AN APPLICANT UNDER SUBSECTION (E).

17 (H) AS USED IN THIS SECTION, THE TERM "VETERAN" MEANS AN
18 INDIVIDUAL WHO SERVED IN THE UNITED STATES ARMED FORCES,
19 INCLUDING A RESERVE COMPONENT OR THE NATIONAL GUARD, AND WHO WAS
20 DISCHARGED OR RELEASED FROM SERVICE UNDER CONDITIONS OTHER THAN
21 DISHONORABLE.

22 SECTION 3. THIS ACT SHALL TAKE EFFECT IN 60 DAYS.