



House of Representatives

General Assembly

File No. 489

January Session, 2001

House Bill No. 5051

House of Representatives, April 26, 2001

The Committee on Public Health reported through REP. EBERLE of the 15th Dist., Chairperson of the Committee on the part of the House, that the bill ought to pass.

AN ACT CONCERNING EXAMINATION OF BIRTH CERTIFICATES AND RECORDS.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 Section 7-51 of the general statutes is repealed and the following is
2 substituted in lieu thereof:

3 (a) With the exception of the chief executive officer of the
4 municipality or [his] an authorized agent of the chief executive officer,
5 the local director of health or [his] an authorized agent of the local
6 director of health, attorneys at law, title examiners and members of
7 genealogical societies incorporated or authorized to do business or
8 conduct affairs in this state, and except as provided in subsection (b) of
9 this section, no person, except the person whose birth is recorded, if
10 over eighteen years of age, [his] the children or spouse of the person
11 whose birth is recorded or [his] such person's parent, guardian or
12 grandparent if such person is a minor, shall have any access to or be
13 permitted to examine the original or any copy of the birth certificate or

14 birth record [,] of any person, nor shall [he] any person disclose any
15 matters contained [therein] in such certificate or record or any
16 information concerning such birth, which original, copy or information
17 is in the custody of any registrar of vital statistics or of the Department
18 of Public Health, nor shall [he] any person be entitled to any copy of
19 any such certificate, record or information, except upon written order
20 of a court of record or upon written request of a state department or
21 the federal government when approved by the Department of Public
22 Health.

23 (b) Any person may have access to and examine the original or any
24 copy of a birth certificate or birth record solely for the purpose of
25 conducting family history research concerning the person whose birth
26 is recorded. No birth certificate or birth record may be copied pursuant
27 to this subsection.

PH *Joint Favorable*

The following fiscal impact statement and bill analysis are prepared for the benefit of members of the General Assembly, solely for the purpose of information, summarization, and explanation, and do not represent the intent of the General Assembly or either House thereof for any purpose:

OFA Fiscal Note

State Impact: Cost

Affected Agencies: Department of Public Health

Municipal Impact: Potential Indeterminate Cost

Explanation

State Impact:

Passage of this bill will result in FY 02 state costs of approximately \$17,250. Included in this sum is \$12,900 to support the three-quarter year salary of one half-time Clerk Typist and associated equipment and other expenses costs needed to allow the Department of Public Health to assist additional persons desiring to view birth records. Also included is \$4,350 in associated fringe benefits costs.

In FY 03 and subsequent fiscal years, a cost of \$20,600 would result (\$14,800 in costs for the department and \$5,800 in associated fringe benefits costs) to reflect ongoing support for this position.

The Department of Public Health is the repository for approximately 4.5 million birth records.

Municipal Impact:

The ability of any given registrar of vital records to accommodate the resulting increase in requests submitted by persons desiring to

view birth certificates cannot be determined in advance. Workload increases and potential costs would vary directly with the volume of additional requestors. It is anticipated that registrars in communities having birthing hospitals would incur the greatest increase in demand, which may result in costs that cannot be supported without additional local resources.

OLR Bill Analysis

HB 5051

AN ACT CONCERNING EXAMINATION OF BIRTH CERTIFICATES AND RECORDS.**SUMMARY:**

This bill allows anyone to access and examine, but not copy, an original birth certificate or a copy, or birth record strictly for family history research on that person. Currently, such access is limited to the person, if over 18, whose birth is recorded; his parent, guardian or grandparent if a minor; his children or spouse; the chief executive officer of the municipality or his authorized agent; the local health director or his agent; lawyers; title examiners; and genealogical associations.

The bill also makes technical changes.

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 2001

BACKGROUND***Related Bill***

sHB 6569, reported favorably by the Public Health Committee, makes a number of changes to the statutes on vital records, affecting both the Department of Public Health and local registrars of vital statistics.

COMMITTEE ACTION

Public Health Committee

Joint Favorable Report

Yea 25 Nay 0