



**Substitute Senate Bill No. 1190**

**Public Act No. 07-79**

***AN ACT CONCERNING VITAL RECORDS.***

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

Section 1. (NEW) (*Effective October 1, 2007*) The Commissioner of Public Health shall require each applicant for employment in, and each employee applying for transfer to, the vital records unit of the Department of Public Health to (1) state whether such applicant or employee has ever been convicted of a crime or whether criminal charges are pending against such applicant or employee at the time of application for employment or transfer, and (2) submit to state and national criminal history records checks. The criminal history records checks required pursuant to this section shall be conducted in accordance with section 29-17a of the general statutes.

Sec. 2. Section 7-60 of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2007*):

(a) Each case of fetal death shall be registered and a fetal death certificate shall be filed with the registrar of vital statistics in the manner required by sections 7-48, 7-50, 7-51 and 7-52 with respect to the filing, content and issuance of birth certificates. A fetus born after a period of gestation of not less than twenty weeks in which there is no attempt at respiration, no action of heart and no movement of

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voluntary muscle, shall be recorded as a fetal death. A fetal death certificate shall be signed by a physician or, when no physician was in attendance, by the nurse-midwife in attendance at the birth, the Chief Medical Examiner, Deputy Chief Medical Examiner, an associate medical examiner [,] or an authorized assistant medical examiner.

(b) Such certificate shall include, on a confidential portion of the certificate, any additional information required by the department, provided the information obtained under this section shall be used only for medical and health purposes.

Sec. 3. Section 7-76 of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2007*):

The fees due registrars of vital statistics for the making of records, copies and endorsements relating to births, deaths, fetal deaths and marriages, when the residence of the parents of the child or of the deceased or of either party to a marriage is in some other town in this state than that in which the birth, death, fetal death or marriage occurred, shall be paid by such other town except as they relate to vital statistics of inmates of any state institution. The fees paid by such other town shall not exceed two dollars for each such record, copy or endorsement. All bills for such fees shall be submitted by such registrars to such other towns on or before February first of each year, provided if a bill amounts to less than twenty-six dollars, no bill shall be sent and the amount shall not be due. If the registrar of vital statistics of any town or city receives a salary for the performance of the registrar's duties, the amount of fees due under the provisions of this section shall be paid to such town or city.

Sec. 4. Section 20-86b of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2007*):

Nurse-midwives shall practice within a health care system and have

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clinical relationships with obstetrician-gynecologists that provide for consultation, collaborative management or referral, as indicated by the health status of the patient. Nurse-midwifery care shall be consistent with the standards of care established by the American College of Nurse-Midwives. Each nurse-midwife shall provide each patient with information regarding, or referral to, other providers and services upon request of the patient or when the care required by the patient is not within the midwife's scope of practice. Each nurse-midwife shall sign the birth certificate of each infant delivered by the nurse-midwife. [A] If an infant is born alive and then dies within the twenty-four-hour period after birth, the nurse-midwife may make the actual determination and pronouncement of death [of an infant delivered by the nurse-midwife] provided: (1) The death is an anticipated death; (2) the nurse-midwife attests to such pronouncement on the certificate of death; and (3) the nurse-midwife or a physician licensed pursuant to chapter 370 certifies the certificate of death not later than twenty-four hours after such pronouncement. In a case of fetal death, as described in section 7-60, as amended by this act, the nurse-midwife who delivered the fetus may make the actual determination of fetal death and certify the date of delivery and that the fetus was born dead.

Sec. 5. Subsection (a) of section 46b-22 of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2007*):

(a) [All] Persons authorized to solemnize marriages in this state include (1) all judges and retired judges, either elected or appointed, [and] including federal judges and judges of other states who may legally join persons in marriage in their jurisdictions, (2) family support magistrates, state referees and justices of the peace [may join persons in marriage in any town in the state] who are appointed in Connecticut, and (3) all ordained or licensed [clergymen] members of the clergy, belonging to this state or any other state, as long as they

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continue in the work of the ministry. [may join persons in marriage.] All marriages solemnized according to the forms and usages of any religious denomination in this state, including marriages witnessed by a duly constituted Spiritual Assembly of the Baha'is, are valid. All marriages attempted to be celebrated by any other person are void.

Sec. 6. Section 46b-24 of the general statutes is amended by adding subsection (d) as follows (*Effective October 1, 2007*):

(NEW) (d) Except as otherwise provided in this chapter, in order to be valid in this state, a marriage ceremony shall be conducted by and in the physical presence of a person who is authorized to solemnize marriages.

Sec. 7. Subsection (a) of section 46b-38dd of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2007*):

(a) [All] Persons authorized to solemnize civil unions include (1) all judges and retired judges, either elected or appointed, including federal judges and judges of other states who may legally join persons in marriage or a civil union in their jurisdictions, (2) family support magistrates, state referees and justices of the peace [may join persons in a civil union in any town in the state] who are appointed in Connecticut, and (3) all ordained or licensed members of the clergy, belonging to this state or any other state, as long as they continue in the work of the ministry. [may join persons in a civil union.] All civil unions solemnized according to the forms and usages of any religious denomination in this state are valid. All civil unions attempted to be celebrated by any other person are void.

Sec. 8. Section 46b-38gg of the general statutes is amended by adding subsection (d) as follows (*Effective October 1, 2007*):

(NEW) (d) In order to be valid in this state, a civil union ceremony

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shall be conducted by and in the physical presence of a person who is authorized to solemnize civil unions or marriages.

Approved May 30, 2007