

Thomas F. Howard
SB 414

Dear Member of the Public Health Committee:

SB 414 needs to be stopped in Committee because it is targeted, unfair and discriminatory.

Your committee has before it SB 414 An Act Concerning the Department of Public Health Recommendation Concern Genealogical Access to Vital records.

The Dept. of Public Health continues to turn back the clock and continues to target genealogists as villains. Worse the act gives to the town and city clerks the option to provide service (that is access) or not based upon their sense of availability. This is a travesty. It excludes others who have access as well: lawyers and funeral directors. It is targeted and biased. Since when do we leave a law to a person - an official or a citizen to - to obey or carryout the law. The clerks want to be judge and jury in a process of obeying the law that they ignored in the past but which freedom of information commission has determined (at least in New Haven) to be a violation of that law.

Perhaps an access to the land records or obtaining personal birth, marriage or death records will be judged inconvenient to a city clerk on certain days - unpublicized - or maybe only available on the third Thursday at 2-3 pm only. This is the fact of access in Bridgeport and New Haven. They are trying to void a law that has been successful and on the books for 30+ years by making it optional for them only when it might be convenient. What kind of law is that?

Please vote this down in committee.

We need your help and hope we genealogists and family historians can count on support.

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