

Legislative Analysis



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VITAL RECORDS FEES

House Bill 4786 (H-1) as Reported from Committee on 6/12/13

Sponsor: Rep. Matt Lori

Committee: Appropriations

Complete to 6-12-13

SUMMARY OF HOUSE BILL 4786 (H-1) as Reported from Committee

The bill would amend the Public Health Code, Part 28 regarding Vital Records. The bill:

- Increases most existing fees for vital records searches, copies, authenticated copies, amendments to vital records, verification of vital records facts
- Authorizes fees for various expedited services
- Establishes new fee for a copy of a vital records-related document
- Establishes that a local registrar shall charge the same fee as the state registrar to a senior citizen for a search and one copy of their birth record
- Establishes the Vital Records Fund created within the State Treasury to receive revenue from fees for use by the vital records program, and to receive money or assets for any source. The Department of Technology, Management, and Budget is the administrator of the Fund for auditing purposes.
- Enacting section 1 establishes an October 1, 2013 effective date for the bill

The program includes 81.4 FTEs to support the state's vital records and statistics system, register all vital events, maintain data systems, issue copies of records, amend records, conduct fraud detection, and morbidity and mortality reports. In 2012, the Vital Records Section responded to 329,300 requests for services.

Vital records fees were last increased in 2004 when GF/GP funding was removed from the vital records program. Fees currently range from \$7 to \$40 for services. The bill proposes changes to establish fees at \$14 to \$50 for services. A schedule of the fees proposed by HB 4786 follows on page 2, including current law.

FISCAL IMPACT:

House Bill 4786 provides statutory changes upon which the FY 2013-14 budget for the Department of Community Health (DCH) is based in Enrolled HB 4328, Article IV. The FY 2013-14 DCH budget includes a \$1,500,000 increase in state restricted funding from increased vital records fees to maintain the current program. Total revenue from fees will increase from \$5.5 million to about \$7.0 million annually. Current fee levels are inadequate to support the program and available fund balances have been depleted. Total appropriations of vital records fees included in the FY 2013-14 budget are \$7,009,700.

Fiscal Analyst: Susan Frey

■ This analysis was prepared by nonpartisan House staff for use by House members in their deliberations, and does not constitute an official statement of legislative intent.

HB 4786 Vital Records Services Fees	Current Law Fee Amount	Proposed Fee Amount
Search for vital record and one copy	\$26	\$34
Additional vital record copies at time of initial search, each	\$12	\$16
Additional years searched, each	\$12	\$12
Authenticated vital record copy	\$29	\$42
Additional vital record authenticated copies at time of initial search, each	\$15	\$26
Verification of vital records facts in Sec 2881 (2)	\$10	\$18
Expedited search for vital record	\$10	\$12
Expedited search for an authenticated copy of a vital record	\$10	\$25
Application for delayed certificate of birth or death and one copy	\$40	\$50
Registration of delayed certificate of birth for foreign born adopted child, one copy	\$40	\$50
Search for vital record and one copy, senior aged 65 or older, for self	\$7	\$14
Creation of new certificate of birth following adoption or other event	\$40	\$50
Creation of new certificate of birth or death within 1 year, for correction (no charge for certain corrections)	\$40	\$50
Expedited creation of new certificate of birth or death	\$10	\$25
Amend birth or death record more than 1 year after event, for correction or adding information	\$40	\$50
Expedited amendment to birth or death record more than 1 year after event	\$10	\$25
Amend birth record for documented legal change of name for an adult	\$40	\$50
Expedited amendment of birth record for documented legal change of name	\$10	\$25
Copy or certified copy of a vital records-related document	\$0	\$12
"For Veteran's Benefits Only" certified copy of vital record, for self	\$0	\$0
"For Adoption Purposes Only" certified copy of vital record, for placement agency	\$0	\$0