
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE BILL

No. 1665

Session of
1989

INTRODUCED BY PISTELLA, RITTER, SEMMEL, MORRIS, RYBAK,
VAN HORNE, MRKONIC, LEVDANSKY, KUKOVICH, GIGLIOTTI, STABACK,
CIVERA, BUNT, ROBINSON, GANNON, COHEN, VEON, BELARDI, MELIO,
MICHLOVIC, TRELLO, BATTISTO, ITKIN, KASUNIC, BELFANTI,
JOHNSON AND BISHOP, JUNE 7, 1989

SENATOR PETERSON, PUBLIC HEALTH AND WELFARE, IN SENATE, AS
AMENDED, JUNE 11, 1990

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," requiring parents to furnish Social Security
14 numbers; and providing for missing children registration.

15 The General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania
16 hereby enacts as follows:

17 Section 1. Section 401 of the act of June 29, 1953 (P.L.304,
18 No.66), known as the Vital Statistics Law of 1953, is amended to
19 read:

20 Section 401. Birth Registration: General Provisions.--A
21 certificate of each birth occurring in this Commonwealth shall

1 be filed with the local registrar of the district in which the
2 birth occurs within a period prescribed by regulations of the
3 Advisory Health Board. The certificate shall be prepared, signed
4 and filed by the attending physician or licensed midwife, except
5 that when there is no attending physician or licensed midwife
6 the certificate shall be prepared, signed and filed (1) by the
7 father, or (2) in the event of his death, disability or absence,
8 by the mother, or (3) in the event of her death or disability,
9 by the householder of the premises or superintendent of the
10 institution in which the birth occurs, or (4) in the event of
11 the absence or disability of all persons heretofore named, then
12 by such person acquainted with the facts as the local registrar
13 shall designate. The Social Security number or numbers of each
14 parent shall be obtained and maintained separately by the
15 department in a fashion that permits routine screened inquiries,
16 unless there is good cause for not requiring the furnishing of
17 such number or numbers in accordance with Federal regulations.
18 This information is considered confidential and is to be made
19 available only to Federal and State agencies responsible for
20 establishing paternity or enforcing child support orders.

21 Section 2. Section 403 of the act, added July 3, 1957
22 (P.L.443, No.247), is amended to read:

23 Section 403. Birth Registration: Children Born in a Country
24 Other Than the United States.--The department shall, upon
25 request, complete and register birth certificates for any child
26 born in a country other than the United States when either
27 parent is a citizen of the United States and a resident of the
28 Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. Such certificates shall show the
29 true country and date of birth, and that the certificate is not
30 evidence of the United States citizenship of the registrant. For

1 such registration the department shall require proof of parental
2 United States citizenship and of Pennsylvania residence. The
3 Social Security number or numbers of each parent are to be
4 recorded and maintained as required in section 401. Certified
5 copies of such certificates shall be issued upon application and
6 payment of the prescribed fee.

7 Section 3. The act is amended by adding an article to read:

8 Article IV-A. Missing Children Registration

9 Section 401-A. Missing Children Registration: Definitions.--

10 As used in this act--

11 (1) "Division" means the Division of Vital Records of the
12 Department of Health.

13 (2) "Investigating law enforcement agency" means the
14 Pennsylvania State Police or local police force responsible for
15 investigating missing persons or children reports within the
16 political subdivision where the child was reported lost,
17 abducted, missing or runaway.

18 (3) "Missing child" means an individual under eighteen (18)
19 years of age who is reported to a law enforcement agency as
20 abducted, lost, missing or a runaway.

21 (4) "School district" means the last known school which the
22 missing child attended.

23 (5) "State Police" means the Pennsylvania State Police.

24 ~~Section 402 A. Missing Children Registration: Investigating~~ <—
25 ~~Law Enforcement Agency. An investigating law enforcement agency~~
26 ~~may report to the State Police and the school district that an~~
27 ~~individual under eighteen (18) years of age is lost, abducted,~~
28 ~~missing or a runaway. The State Police shall notify the division~~
29 ~~within fifteen (15) days of receipt of a report for the purpose~~
30 ~~specified in section 403 A of this act. Upon recovery of a child~~

~~who was the subject of a report, the investigating law
enforcement agency shall notify the school district and the
State Police who shall notify the division.~~

SECTION 402-A. MISSING CHILDREN REGISTRATION: INVESTIGATING
LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCY.--AN INVESTIGATING LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCY
MAY REPORT TO THE SCHOOL DISTRICT AND IMMEDIATELY NOTIFY THE
DIVISION FOR THE PURPOSE SPECIFIED IN SECTION 403-A OF THIS ACT,
THAT AN INDIVIDUAL UNDER EIGHTEEN (18) YEARS OF AGE IS LOST,
ABDUCTED, MISSING OR A RUNAWAY. THE INVESTIGATING LAW
ENFORCEMENT AGENCY SHALL NOTIFY THE SCHOOL DISTRICT AND THE
DIVISION UPON RECOVERY OF A CHILD WHO WAS THE SUBJECT OF A
REPORT.

Section 403-A. Missing Children Registration: Notations on
Birth and School Records.--If the division receives notification
of a missing child, it shall make a notation on the birth
certificate record of the missing child so that, if that birth
certificate is requested, the division will be alerted to the
fact that the birth certificate is that of a missing child. When
the division is notified of the recovery of a missing child, it
shall remove the notation. When a school receives notification
of a missing child, it shall make a notation on the school
record of the missing child so that, if that school record is
requested, the school will be alerted to the fact that the
school record is that of a missing child. If the school is
notified of the recovery of a missing child, it shall remove the
notation.

Section 404-A. Missing Children Registration: Requests for
information.--When the division or a school receives a request
for information from a record which has a "Missing Child"
notation, no information contained in the record shall be

1 released to the requester prior to contact with the
2 investigating law enforcement agency. The division and schools
3 shall make an effort to obtain information to identify the
4 person whose request is verbal. The division or school receiving
5 the request shall contact the investigating law enforcement
6 agency to coordinate the response.

7 Section 4. This act shall take effect in 90 days.