

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 AND  
JOHNSON, JUNE 7, 1989

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON HEALTH AND WELFARE, JUNE 7, 1989

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 Social Security numbers of parents on  
14 birth certificates.

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  
22 be filed with the local registrar of the district in which the

1 birth occurs within a period prescribed by regulations of the  
2 Advisory Health Board. The certificate shall be prepared, signed  
3 and filed by the attending physician or licensed midwife, except  
4 that when there is no attending physician or licensed midwife  
5 the certificate shall be prepared, signed and filed (1) by the  
6 father, or (2) in the event of his death, disability or absence,  
7 by the mother, or (3) in the event of her death or disability,  
8 by the householder of the premises or superintendent of the  
9 institution in which the birth occurs, or (4) in the event of  
10 the absence or disability of all persons heretofore named, then  
11 by such person acquainted with the facts as the local registrar  
12 shall designate. The Social Security number of each parent, if  
13 ascertainable, shall be obtained and maintained separately by  
14 the Department of Health in a fashion that permits routine,  
15 screened inquiries. This information is considered confidential,  
16 and is to be made available only to State and Federal agencies  
17 responsible for establishing or enforcing child support orders.

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

20 Section 403. Birth Registration: Children Born in a Country  
21 Other Than the United States.--The department shall, upon  
22 request, complete and register birth certificates for any child  
23 born in a country other than the United States when either  
24 parent is a citizen of the United States and a resident of the  
25 Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. Such certificates shall show the  
26 true country and date of birth, and that the certificate is not  
27 evidence of the United States citizenship of the registrant. For  
28 such registration the department shall require proof of parental  
29 United States citizenship and of Pennsylvania residence. The  
30 Social Security number of each parent, if ascertainable, is to

1 be recorded and maintained as required in section 401. Certified  
2 copies of such certificates shall be issued upon application and  
3 payment of the prescribed fee.

4 Section 3. This act shall take effect in 60 days.