THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

SENATE BILL

No. 361

Session of 2011

INTRODUCED BY ROBBINS, PILEGGI, TARTAGLIONE, YAW, MENSCH, DINNIMAN, ALLOWAY, EICHELBERGER, BAKER, FONTANA, GORDNER, ERICKSON, KASUNIC, PICCOLA, RAFFERTY, EARLL, BROWNE, BREWSTER, FERLO AND FOLMER, FEBRUARY 1, 2011

AS AMENDED ON THIRD CONSIDERATION, SEPTEMBER 26, 2011

AN ACT

Amending the act of June 29, 1953 (P.L.304, No.66), entitled "An 1 act providing for the administration of a statewide system of 2 vital statistics; prescribing the functions of the State Department of Health, the State Advisory Health Board and local registrars; imposing duties upon coroners, 5 prothonotaries, clerks of orphans' court, physicians, 6 midwives and other persons; requiring reports and 7 certificates for the registration of vital statistics; 9 regulating the disposition of dead bodies; limiting the disclosure of records; prescribing the sufficiency of vital 10 statistics records as evidence; prescribing fees and 11 penalties; and revising and consolidating the laws relating 12 thereto," further providing for disclosure of records. 13 14 The General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania 15 hereby enacts as follows: 16 Section 1. Section 801 of the act of June 29, 1953 (P.L.304, 17 No.66), known as the Vital Statistics Law of 1953, is amended to 18 read: 19 Section 801. Records: Disclosure in General. -- The vital 20 statistics records of the department and of local registrars 21 shall not be open to public inspection except as authorized by 22 the provisions of this act and the regulations of the Advisory

- 1 Health Board. Neither the department nor local registrars shall
- 2 issue copies of or disclose any vital statistics record or part
- 3 thereof created under the provisions of this or prior acts
- 4 except in compliance with the provisions of this act and the
- 5 regulations of the Advisory Health Board. When one hundred (100)
- 6 FIVE (105) years have elapsed after the date of birth or fifty
- 7 (50) years have elapsed after the date of death, the records
- 8 shall become public records. To ensure the proper safekeeping of
- 9 <u>original birth records after one hundred (100) FIVE (105) years</u>
- 10 and death records after fifty (50) years the records shall be
- 11 maintained by the State Archives.
- 12 Section 2. This act shall take effect in 60 days.