

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

SENATE BILL

No. 972 Session of
1999INTRODUCED BY SLOCUM, PICCOLA, HELFRICK, KITCHEN AND THOMPSON,
MAY 13, 1999SENATOR MOWERY, PUBLIC HEALTH AND WELFARE, AS AMENDED,
FEBRUARY 8, 2000

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," providing for Department of Health transfer of
14 funds; and further providing for local registrars' fees and
15 for issuance of certificates of death.

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

18 Section 1. The act of June 29, 1953 (P.L.304, No.66), known
19 as the Vital Statistics Law of 1953, is amended by adding a
20 section to read:

21 Section 206. Department: Transfer of Funds.--(a) The
22 department shall annually distribute the accrued funds received
23 pursuant to sections 304(b) and 804.1(b) to the county coroner

1 ~~or medical examiner in the same county or region as represented~~ <—
2 ~~by the local registrar or local department office. The COUNTY~~ <—
3 WHERE THE DEATH OCCURRED. THE department shall promulgate
4 regulations regarding the collection, retention and distribution
5 of the fees received under sections 304(b) and 804.1(b).

6 (b) The department shall require any funds received by
7 county coroners or medical examiners under this section to be
8 used for the purposes of laboratory or necropsy room
9 modernization, including supplies, equipment, training and
10 office and laboratory facility improvement or the modernization
11 of equipment used for forensic investigation. The department may
12 promulgate regulations to implement this section including an
13 annual audit regarding the use of these funds, in addition to
14 any other annual audit performed at the county level.

15 Section 2. Section 304 of the act, amended December 20, 1991
16 (P.L.399, No.46), is amended to read:

17 Section 304. Registration Districts: Local Registrars'
18 Compensation.--(a) Each local registrar shall be paid a fee of
19 one dollar (\$1) for each certificate transmitted in accordance
20 with the provisions of this act or for each report of no
21 certificates filed during any calendar month. The fees
22 prescribed by this section shall be paid by the Commonwealth
23 from funds appropriated to the department.

24 (b) Local registrars shall issue certificates of death from
25 original certificates of death in their possession upon
26 completion of a period of instruction on the preparation of
27 certificates by representatives of the Division of Vital
28 Records. For each certificate issued, the local registrar shall
29 receive a fee of [two dollars (\$2).] five dollars (\$5) from the
30 requester. Each fee received by a local registrar shall be

1 distributed as follows: four dollars (\$4) shall be retained by
2 the local registrar, except as provided for in subsection (c),
3 and one dollar (\$1) shall be transmitted to the department for
4 distribution to the county coroner or medical examiner as
5 provided for in section 206.

6 (c) A local registrar may not receive an aggregate amount of
7 fees in excess of [thirty-five thousand dollars (\$35,000)] forty
8 thousand dollars (\$40,000) in any one calendar year. Upon
9 receiving an aggregate of forty thousand dollars (\$40,000) in
10 fees in one calendar year, the local registrar shall transmit
11 the fee it is authorized to retain under subsection (b) to the
12 department.

13 (d) Any regulation inconsistent with or contrary to the
14 provisions of this section is superseded.

15 Section 3. The act is amended by adding a section to read:

16 Section 804.1. Records: Certified Copy of Death.--(a) Upon
17 application therefor and payment of a fee of five dollars (\$5),
18 the department shall issue a certified copy of a certificate of
19 death.

20 (b) When there is no local registrar, upon application
21 thereof and payment of a fee of five dollars (\$5), the local
22 department office shall issue a certificate of death. Each fee
23 received by the local department office shall be distributed as
24 follows: four dollars (\$4) shall be retained by the department
25 and one dollar (\$1) shall be retained by the department for
26 distribution to the county coroner or medical examiner as
27 provided for in section 206.

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