

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 AND BROWNE,
FEBRUARY 1, 2011

REFERRED TO PUBLIC HEALTH AND WELFARE, FEBRUARY 1, 2011

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," further providing for disclosure of records.

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 years have elapsed after the date of birth or fifty (50) years
7 have elapsed after the date of death, the records shall become
8 public records. To ensure the proper safekeeping of original
9 birth records after one hundred (100) years and death records
10 after fifty (50) years the records shall be maintained by the
11 State Archives.

12 Section 2. This act shall take effect in 60 days.