

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE BILL

No. 740 Session of 2021

INTRODUCED BY PICKETT, CAUSER, FREEMAN, GALLOWAY, HILL-EVANS, JAMES, KNOWLES, MILLARD, NEILSON, POLINCHOCK, RYAN, STRUZZI, WHEELAND AND ZIMMERMAN, MARCH 3, 2021

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON HEALTH, MARCH 3, 2021

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," in registration district administration, further
 14 providing for local registrars' compensation; and making a
 15 related repeal.

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

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

22 Section 304. Registration Districts: Local Registrars'
 23 Compensation.--* * *

24 (b.1) For the issuance of certificates of death by a local

1 registrar under section 609-A(a) (6) (ii) of the act of April 9,
2 1929 (P.L.177, No.175), known as "The Administrative Code of
3 1929," the following shall apply:

4 (1) Local registrars shall issue certificates of death
5 from original certificates of death in their possession upon
6 completion of a period of instruction on the preparation of
7 certificates by representatives of the Division of Vital
8 Records.

9 (2) Each fee received by the local registrar under
10 section 609-A(a) (6) (ii) of "The Administrative Code of 1929"
11 shall be distributed, retained or transmitted to the
12 department as follows:

13 (i) The following apply:

14 (A) Except as provided under clause (B), six
15 dollars (\$6) shall be retained by the local
16 registrar.

17 (B) If the limitation under subsection (c) (1)
18 has been reached, six dollars (\$6) shall be
19 transmitted to the department for deposit in the
20 General Fund.

21 (ii) Thirteen dollars (\$13) shall be transmitted to
22 the department for deposit in the Vital Statistics
23 Improvement Account.

24 (iii) One dollar (\$1) shall be transmitted to the
25 department for distribution to the county coroner or
26 medical examiner as provided for under section 206.

27 (c) (1) A local registrar may not be compensated in excess
28 of sixty thousand dollars (\$60,000) in any one calendar year.
29 Compensation shall include fees received from the department
30 under subsection (a) and retained from requesters under

1 subsection [(b)] (b.1).

2 (2) [Upon reaching the limitation on compensation set forth
3 under clause (1) in any one calendar year, the local registrar
4 shall transmit all additional fees received under subsection (b)
5 to the department for deposit as follows:

6 (i) Three dollars (\$3) shall be deposited in the Vital
7 Statistics Improvement Fund.

8 (ii) Three dollars (\$3) shall be deposited in the General
9 Fund.] (Reserved).

10 * * *

11 Section 2. Repeals are as follows:

12 (1) The General Assembly declares that the repeal under
13 paragraph (2) is necessary to effectuate the addition of
14 section 304(b.1) of the act.

15 (2) Section 1725-E of the act of April 9, 1929 (P.L.343,
16 No.176), known as The Fiscal Code, is repealed.

17 Section 3. This act shall take effect immediately.