

**House File 23 - Introduced**

HOUSE FILE 23

BY PETTENGILL and JONES

**A BILL FOR**

1 An Act relating to vital statistics certificates or records  
2 and vital statistics fees collected by the state and county  
3 registrars of vital statistics.

4 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF IOWA:

1 Section 1. Section 144.45, Code 2015, is amended to read as  
2 follows:

3 **144.45 Certified copies — other copies.**

4 1. The state registrar and the county registrar shall,  
5 upon written request from any applicant entitled to a record,  
6 issue a certified copy of any certificate or record in the  
7 registrar's custody or of a part of a certificate or record.  
8 Each copy issued shall show the date of registration; and  
9 copies issued from records marked "delayed", "amended", or  
10 "court order" shall be similarly marked and show the effective  
11 date.

12 2. A certified copy of a certificate, or any part thereof,  
13 shall be considered for all purposes the same as the original  
14 and shall be prima facie evidence of the facts therein stated,  
15 provided that the evidentiary value of a certificate or record  
16 filed more than one year after the event, or a record which  
17 has been amended, shall be determined by the judicial or  
18 administrative body or official before whom the certificate is  
19 offered as evidence.

20 3. The national division of vital statistics may be  
21 furnished copies or data which it requires for national  
22 statistics, provided that the state be reimbursed for the cost  
23 of furnishing data, and provided further that data shall not  
24 be used for other than statistical purposes by the national  
25 division of vital statistics unless so authorized by the state  
26 registrar.

27 4. Federal, state, local, and other public or private  
28 agencies may, upon written request, be furnished copies or data  
29 for statistical purposes upon terms or conditions prescribed  
30 by the department.

31 5. a. No person shall prepare or issue any certificate  
32 which purports to be an original, or certified copy, ~~or copy~~ of  
33 a certificate of birth, death, fetal death, or marriage except  
34 as authorized in this chapter.

35 b. No person, in the person's capacity as an employee or

1 agent of the state or a political subdivision of the state,  
2 shall prepare or issue any certificate which purports to be a  
3 copy of a certificate of birth, death, fetal death, or marriage  
4 except as necessary in the scope of the person's employment or  
5 agency or as otherwise authorized in this chapter.

6 Sec. 2. Section 144.46, subsection 1, paragraph b, Code  
7 2015, is amended by striking the paragraph.

8 Sec. 3. Section 144.46, Code 2015, is amended by adding the  
9 following new subsection:

10 NEW SUBSECTION. 3. The department shall not establish  
11 or maintain, and neither the state registrar nor the county  
12 registrar is authorized to collect, a fee for a search of the  
13 files or records when no copy is made, or when no record is  
14 found on file.

15 EXPLANATION

16 The inclusion of this explanation does not constitute agreement with  
17 the explanation's substance by the members of the general assembly.

18 This bill relates to vital statistics fees collected by the  
19 state and county registrars of vital statistics.

20 Under current law, no person is allowed to prepare or  
21 issue an original, certified copy, or copy of a certificate  
22 of birth, death, fetal death, or marriage except as provided  
23 in Code chapter 144. The bill maintains these restrictions  
24 for originals and certified copies. For other copies, the  
25 bill provides that no person, in the person's capacity as an  
26 employee or agent of the state, or a political subdivision  
27 of the state, shall prepare or issue any certificate which  
28 purports to be a copy of such a certificate except as necessary  
29 in the scope of the person's employment or agency or as  
30 provided in Code chapter 144.

31 Under current law, the department of public health is also  
32 required to establish a vital statistics fee, based on average  
33 administrative costs, for searches of files or records when a  
34 copy of the file or record is not made or when the record is not  
35 found. Current law also requires that the fee be collected by

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1 the state registrar and county registrars (county recorders).  
2 The bill strikes the authorization for establishing and  
3 collecting this vital statistics fee and prohibits establishing  
4 or collecting such a fee.