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Bill Analysis
Legislative Service Commission

H.B. 252

126th General Assembly
(As Introduced)

Reps. Distel, Hartnett, S. Patton, Schaffer, McGregor, C. Evans, Beatty

BILL SUMMARY

- Allows an Ohio public agency to obtain certified copies of vital records without paying a fee.

CONTENT AND OPERATION

Current law

Current law requires the Director of Health, the State Registrar of Vital Statistics, or a local registrar of vital statistics, on receipt of a signed application and payment of the specified fee (see **COMMENT**), to issue to any applicant a certified copy of a vital record, or part of a vital record, in the Director's or registrar's custody, unless the vital record has ceased to be a public record as provided in the Vital Statistics Law (R.C. 3705.23(A)(1)).¹

Changes made by the bill

The bill requires the Director of Health, the State Registrar of Vital Statistics, or a local registrar of vital statistics to issue a certified copy of a vital record, or part of a vital record, *without fee* if an Ohio public agency makes the application and certifies that the record is needed in conducting its official business. The bill defines "public agency" to mean an office, agency, department, bureau, or other governmental entity of this state or a political subdivision of this state. (R.C. 3705.23(A)(5).)

¹ Existing law defines "vital records" as certificates or reports of birth, death, fetal death, marriage, divorce, dissolution of marriage, or annulment, related data, and other documents maintained as required by statute (R.C. 3705.01(O))--not in the bill.

COMMENT

Current law requires the Public Health Council to adopt rules prescribing a fee for obtaining a certified copy of a vital record or a certification of birth from the state Office of Vital Statistics. This fee cannot be less than \$7.00. (R.C. 3705.24(A)(1)(a)(i) and (2)--not in the bill.)

In addition to the fees, such as that mentioned above, they must charge under the Revised Code, the Office of Vital Statistics or a board of health of a city or general health district must charge a \$5.00 fee for each certified copy of a vital record and each certification of birth that is to be used by the Department of Health solely for the modernization and automation of Ohio's vital records system and must be deposited in the General Operations Fund of the Department (R.C. 3701.83(A) and 3705.24(B)--not in the bill). The fees received otherwise by the Director of Health under the Vital Statistics Law also generally must be deposited in that fund (R.C. 3705.24(C)--not in the bill).

R.C. 3705.24(D) requires fees that local registrars of vital statistics who are salaried employees of a city or general health district receive under R.C. 3705.23 for certified copies of vital records be paid into the city's general fund or the general health district's health fund (not in the bill).

HISTORY

ACTION	DATE	JOURNAL ENTRY
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