

WHEREAS, The current time required to process in-person requests for Vital Records is 1 to 2 hours; and

WHEREAS, The current demand for copies of vital records has shown a steady increase as a result of the new tax laws requiring Social Security numbers for dependent children and the new immigration law which requires proof of citizenship for individuals seeking employment; and

WHEREAS, The Department of Health and Mental Hygiene is seeking to provide the proper level of service and enhance service to the public; now, therefore,

SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND, That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

Article - Health - General

4-217.

(c) (1) Except as otherwise provided by law, the Department shall collect a [~~\$3~~] \$4 fee for each certified or abridged copy of a birth, death, fetal death, or marriage certificate or for a report that a search of the files was made and the requested record is not on file.

(2) The Department may not collect a fee for a certificate requested by an agency of [this] THE State or any of its political subdivisions.

(3) The Secretary may waive all or part of a fee if chargeable to an agency of the United States.

(F) A PERSON MAY USE A PHOTOCOPY OF A BIRTH, DEATH, FETAL DEATH, OR MARRIAGE CERTIFICATE FOR ANY NONFRAUDULENT AND NONDECEPTIVE PURPOSE.

Chapter 251 of the Acts of 1986

SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect July 1, 1986. [It shall remain effective for a period of five years and, at the end of June 30, 1991, and with no further action required by the General Assembly, this Act shall be abrogated and of no further force and effect. At the end of June 30, 1991, the Michie Company shall publish § 4-217(c) of the Health - General Article as it existed on June 30, 1986, subject to any intervening amendments.]

SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That the Secretary of Health and Mental Hygiene shall report to the General Assembly at