

2025 -- H 5871

=====
LC001415
=====

STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2025

—————
A N A C T

RELATING TO HEALTH AND SAFETY -- VITAL RECORDS

Introduced By: Representatives Cortvriend, Shanley, Tanzi, Dawson, Handy, and McGaw

Date Introduced: February 28, 2025

Referred To: House State Government & Elections

(Dept. of Health)

It is enacted by the General Assembly as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Section 23-3-5.1 of the General Laws in Chapter 23-3 entitled "Vital
2 Records" is hereby amended to read as follows:

3 **23-3-5.1. Transfer of public historical documents.**

4 (a) At the end of each calendar year, original records of births and marriages that have
5 occurred one hundred (100) years or more from the date of transfer and deaths that have occurred
6 fifty (50) years or more from the date of transfer, shall be permanently transferred by the state
7 registrar of vital records to the custody of the state archives under control of the secretary of state
8 who may promulgate rules and regulations pertaining to these public historical documents. [In order](#)
9 [to preserve the integrity of historical public vital records, which are maintained at the Rhode Island](#)
10 [state archives, public historical vital records shall not be amended.](#) Prior to transferring the records
11 to the state archives, the division of vital records shall ensure that an electronic copy of the records
12 is provided to all local registrars for the purpose of issuance of accurate copies, or certified copies,
13 to the public as authorized by law.

14 (b) Amendments to records on file with the local registrar, which are not available in
15 electronic format, shall be forwarded upon amendment to the local registrar for the purpose of
16 issuance of accurate copies, or certified copies, to the public as authorized by law.

1 SECTION 2. This act shall take effect upon passage.

=====
LC001415
=====

EXPLANATION
BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL
OF
A N A C T
RELATING TO HEALTH AND SAFETY -- VITAL RECORDS

- 1 This act would provide that public historical vital records maintained by the state archives
- 2 shall not be amended.
- 3 This act would take effect upon passage.

=====
LC001415
=====