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THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

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HOUSE BILL

No. 724 Session of  
2015

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INTRODUCED BY FREEMAN, MILLARD, MAHONEY, BROWNLEE, COHEN,  
MCNEILL AND THOMAS, MARCH 6, 2015

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REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY, MARCH 6, 2015

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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," increasing the fee for death certificates and  
14 further providing for local registrars' compensation.

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

17 Section 1. Section 304 of the act of June 29, 1953 (P.L.304,  
18 No.66), known as the Vital Statistics Law of 1953, amended  
19 November 23, 2004 (P.L.909, No.122), is amended to read:

20 Section 304. Registration Districts: Local Registrars'  
21 Compensation.--(a) Each local registrar shall be paid a fee of  
22 one dollar (\$1) for each certificate transmitted in accordance  
23 with the provisions of this act or for each report of no  
24 certificates filed during any calendar month. The fees

1 prescribed by this section shall be paid by the Commonwealth  
2 from funds appropriated to the department.

3 (b) Local registrars shall issue certificates of death from  
4 original certificates of death in their possession upon  
5 completion of a period of instruction on the preparation of  
6 certificates by representatives of the Division of Vital  
7 Records. For each certificate issued, the local registrar shall  
8 receive a fee of [six dollars (\$6)] eight dollars (\$8) from the  
9 requester. Each fee received by the local registrar shall be  
10 distributed as follows: [three dollars (\$3)] four dollars (\$4)  
11 shall be retained by the local registrar and [three dollars  
12 (\$3)] four dollars (\$4) shall be transmitted to the department  
13 for deposit in the Vital Statistics Improvement Account.

14 (c) (1) A local registrar may not be compensated in excess  
15 of [sixty thousand dollars (\$60,000)] seventy-five thousand  
16 dollars (75,000) in any one calendar year. Compensation shall  
17 include fees received from the department under subsection (a)  
18 and retained from requesters under subsection (b).

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

23 (i) [Three dollars (\$3)] Four dollars (\$4) shall be  
24 deposited in the Vital Statistics Improvement Fund.

25 (ii) [Three dollars (\$3)] Four dollars (\$4) shall be  
26 deposited in the General Fund.

27 (d) Any regulation inconsistent with or contrary to the  
28 provisions of this section is superseded.

29 Section 2. This act shall take effect in 60 days.