

CERTIFICATION OF ENROLLMENT

**SUBSTITUTE SENATE BILL 5545**

Chapter 241, Laws of 2003

58th Legislature  
2003 Regular Session

VITAL RECORDS--COPY FEES

EFFECTIVE DATE: 7/27/03

Passed by the Senate April 26, 2003  
YEAS 44 NAYS 0

BRAD OWEN

\_\_\_\_\_  
**President of the Senate**

Passed by the House April 24, 2003  
YEAS 77 NAYS 20

FRANK CHOPP

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Speaker of the House of Representatives**

Approved May 12, 2003.

GARY LOCKE

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Governor of the State of Washington**

CERTIFICATE

I, Milton H. Doumit, Jr.,  
Secretary of the Senate of the  
State of Washington, do hereby  
certify that the attached is  
**SUBSTITUTE SENATE BILL 5545** as  
passed by the Senate and the House  
of Representatives on the dates  
hereon set forth.

MILTON H. DOUMIT JR.

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Secretary**

FILED

May 12, 2003 - 4:20 p.m.

**Secretary of State  
State of Washington**

---

**SUBSTITUTE SENATE BILL 5545**

---

AS AMENDED BY THE HOUSE

Passed Legislature - 2003 Regular Session

**State of Washington                      58th Legislature                      2003 Regular Session**

**By** Senate Committee on Ways & Means (originally sponsored by Senators Esser, Reardon, Poulsen, Sheahan and Winsley; by request of Department of Health)

READ FIRST TIME 04/03/03.

1            AN ACT Relating to fees for certified copies of vital records; and  
2 amending RCW 70.58.107.

3 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON:

4            **Sec. 1.** RCW 70.58.107 and 1997 c 223 s 1 are each amended to read  
5 as follows:

6            The department of health shall charge a fee of ~~((thirteen))~~  
7 seventeen dollars for certified copies of records and for copies or  
8 information provided for research, statistical, or administrative  
9 purposes, and eight dollars for a search of the files or records when  
10 no copy is made. The department shall prescribe by regulation fees to  
11 be paid for preparing sealed files and for opening sealed files.

12            No fee may be demanded or required for furnishing certified copies  
13 of a birth, death, fetal death, marriage, divorce, annulment, or legal  
14 separation record for use in connection with a claim for compensation  
15 or pension pending before the veterans administration.

16            The department shall keep a true and correct account of all fees  
17 received and turn the fees over to the state treasurer on a weekly  
18 basis.

1 Local registrars shall charge the same fees as the state as  
2 hereinabove provided and as prescribed by department regulation(~~(7~~  
3 ~~except that local registrars shall charge thirteen dollars for the~~  
4 ~~first copy of a death certificate and eight dollars for each additional~~  
5 ~~copy of the same death certificate when the additional copies are~~  
6 ~~ordered at the same time as the first copy)) except in cases where  
7 payment is made by credit card, charge card, debit card, smart card,  
8 stored value card, federal wire, automatic clearinghouse system, or  
9 other electronic communication. Payment by these electronic methods  
10 may be subject to an additional fee consistent with the requirements  
11 established by RCW 36.29.190. All such fees collected, except for  
12 ~~((five))~~ seven dollars of each fee collected for the issuance of ~~((a~~  
13 ~~certified copy))~~ birth certificates and first copies of death  
14 certificates and fourteen dollars of each fee collected for additional  
15 copies of the same death certificate ordered at the same time as the  
16 first copy, shall be paid to the jurisdictional health department.~~

17 All local registrars in cities and counties shall keep a true and  
18 correct account of all fees received under this section for the  
19 issuance of certified copies and shall turn ~~((five))~~ seven dollars of  
20 the fees collected for birth certificates and first copies of death  
21 certificates and fourteen dollars of the fee collected for additional  
22 copies of death certificates over to the state treasurer on or before  
23 the first day of January, April, July, and October. All but five  
24 dollars of the fees turned over to the state treasurer by local  
25 registrars shall be paid to the department of health for the purpose of  
26 developing and maintaining the state vital records systems, including  
27 a web-based electronic death registration system.

28 Five dollars of each fee imposed for the issuance of certified  
29 copies, except for copies suitable for display issued under RCW  
30 70.58.085, at both the state and local levels shall be held by the  
31 state treasurer in the death investigations' account established by RCW  
32 43.79.445.

Passed by the Senate April 26, 2003.

Passed by the House April 24, 2003.

Approved by the Governor May 12, 2003.

Filed in Office of Secretary of State May 12, 2003.