

# HOUSE BILL REPORT

## HB 1157

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**As Passed House:**

January 30, 2025

**Title:** An act relating to authorizing access to certifications of birth and death to additional family members.

**Brief Description:** Authorizing access to certifications of birth and death to additional family members.

**Sponsors:** Representative Steele.

**Brief History:**

**Committee Activity:**

Health Care & Wellness: 1/15/25, 1/17/25 [DP].

**Floor Activity:**

Passed House: 1/30/25, 96-0.

**Brief Summary of Bill**

- Expands the family members eligible to obtain a certification of birth or death to include great grandchildren.

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### HOUSE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH CARE & WELLNESS

**Majority Report:** Do pass. Signed by 17 members: Representatives Bronoske, Chair; Lekanoff, Vice Chair; Schmick, Ranking Minority Member; Caldier, Assistant Ranking Minority Member; Marshall, Assistant Ranking Minority Member; Davis, Engell, Low, Macri, Manjarrez, Obras, Parshley, Shavers, Stonier, Stuebe, Thai and Tharinger.

**Staff:** Kim Weidenaar (786-7120).

**Background:**

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*This analysis was prepared by non-partisan legislative staff for the use of legislative members in their deliberations. This analysis is not part of the legislation nor does it constitute a statement of legislative intent.*

The Department of Health (Department) collects and stores all reports of specific vital life events in the state. These vital life events include births, deaths, fetal deaths, stillbirths, marriages, marriage and domestic partnership dissolutions, marriage and domestic partnership annulments, and legal separations. The Department retains permanent custody of all vital records in its statewide vital records system. The Secretary of Health is in charge of the state vital records and must appoint a state registrar that is responsible for the system's operations and integrity, develop uniform vital statistics reporting requirements and forms for local registrars across the state, review reports, and take measures to prevent the fraudulent use of vital records.

Vital records are also available in certifications and noncertified informational copies. Certifications of death and birth include attestations by the state or local registrar to the accuracy of information and have the full force and effect of the original vital record. Noncertified copies are for informational purposes only, may not be used for legal purposes, and in the case of death certificates do not include as much information as the certified version. Only qualified applicants that provide the required information and documentation of eligibility may obtain a certification of birth or death. The following family members are considered qualified applicants: the subject of the record's spouse or domestic partner, child, parent, stepparent, stepchild, sibling, grandparent, great grandparent, grandchild, legal guardian, and, for death certificates, the next of kin.

**Summary of Bill:**

Great grandchildren are added to the types of family members that are considered qualified applicants for purposes of obtaining certifications of birth or death.

**Appropriation:** None.

**Fiscal Note:** Not requested.

**Effective Date:** The bill takes effect 90 days after adjournment of the session in which the bill is passed.

**Staff Summary of Public Testimony:**

(In support) None.

(Opposed) None.

**Persons Testifying:** None.

**Persons Signed In To Testify But Not Testifying:** None.