
SENATE BILL 6081

State of Washington

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By Senators Pedersen, Llias, Bateman, Dhingra, Frame, Hasegawa, Nobles, Saldaña, Stanford, Valdez, and C. Wilson

Read first time 01/13/26. Referred to Committee on State Government, Tribal Affairs & Elections.

1 AN ACT Relating to protecting Washingtonians from invasion of
2 privacy, including the unauthorized disclosure of sex designation
3 information and historic sex designation changes in official
4 government records; amending RCW 46.20.091, 70.58A.500, 70.58A.510,
5 70.58A.520, 70.58A.530, and 70.58A.540; reenacting and amending RCW
6 42.56.230; adding a new section to chapter 46.20 RCW; and providing
7 an effective date.

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

9 **Sec. 1.** RCW 42.56.230 and 2023 c 361 s 14, 2023 c 346 s 1, and
10 2023 c 182 s 2 are each reenacted and amended to read as follows:

11 The following personal information is exempt from public
12 inspection and copying under this chapter:

13 (1) Personal information in any files maintained for students in
14 public schools, patients or clients of public institutions or public
15 health agencies, or welfare recipients;

16 (2)(a) Personal information:

17 (i) For a child enrolled in licensed child care in any files
18 maintained by the department of children, youth, and families;

19 (ii) For a child enrolled in a public or nonprofit program
20 serving or pertaining to children, adolescents, or students,
21 including but not limited to early learning or child care services,

1 parks and recreation programs, youth development programs, and after-
2 school programs;

3 (iii) For a student enrolled or previously enrolled in a local
4 education agency, in any records pertaining to the student, including
5 correspondence;

6 (iv) For the family members or guardians of a child who is
7 subject to the exemption under this subsection (2) if the family
8 member or guardian has the same last name as the child or if the
9 family member or guardian resides at the same address as the child
10 and disclosure of the family member's or guardian's information would
11 result in disclosure of the personal information exempted under
12 (a)(i) through (iii) of this subsection; or

13 (v) For substitute caregivers who are licensed or approved to
14 provide overnight care of children by the department of children,
15 youth, and families.

16 (b) Emergency contact information under this subsection (2) may
17 be provided to appropriate authorities and medical personnel for the
18 purpose of treating the individual during an emergency situation;

19 (3) Personal information in files maintained for employees,
20 appointees, or elected officials of any public agency to the extent
21 that disclosure would violate their right to privacy;

22 (4) Information required of any taxpayer in connection with the
23 assessment or collection of any tax if the disclosure of the
24 information to other persons would: (a) Be prohibited to such persons
25 by RCW 84.08.210, 82.32.330, 84.40.020, 84.40.340, or any ordinance
26 authorized under RCW 35.102.145; or (b) violate the taxpayer's right
27 to privacy or result in unfair competitive disadvantage to the
28 taxpayer;

29 (5) Credit card numbers, debit card numbers, electronic check
30 numbers, card expiration dates, or bank or other financial
31 information as defined in RCW 9.35.005 including social security
32 numbers, except when disclosure is expressly required by or governed
33 by other law;

34 (6) Personal and financial information related to a small loan or
35 any system of authorizing a small loan in RCW 31.45.093;

36 (7)(a) Any record used to prove identity, age, residential
37 address, social security number, or other personal information
38 required to apply for a driver's license or identicard.

39 (b) Information provided under RCW 46.20.111 that indicates that
40 an applicant declined to register with the selective service system.

1 (c) Any record pertaining to a vehicle license plate, driver's
2 license, or identicard issued under RCW 46.08.066 that, alone or in
3 combination with any other records, may reveal the identity of an
4 individual, the sex designation of an individual, or reveal that an
5 individual is or was, performing an undercover or covert law
6 enforcement, confidential public health work, public assistance
7 fraud, or child support investigative activity. This exemption does
8 not prevent the release of the total number of vehicle license
9 plates, drivers' licenses, or identicards that, under RCW 46.08.066,
10 an agency or department has applied for, been issued, denied,
11 returned, destroyed, lost, and reported for misuse.

12 (d) Any record pertaining to a vessel registration issued under
13 RCW 88.02.330 that, alone or in combination with any other records,
14 may reveal the identity of an individual, or reveal that an
15 individual is or was, performing an undercover or covert law
16 enforcement activity. This exemption does not prevent the release of
17 the total number of vessel registrations that, under RCW 88.02.330,
18 an agency or department has applied for, been issued, denied,
19 returned, destroyed, lost, and reported for misuse.

20 Upon request by the legislature, the department of licensing
21 shall provide a report to the legislature containing all of the
22 information in (c) of this subsection (7) and this subsection (7)(d)
23 that is subject to public disclosure;

24 (8) All information related to individual claim resolution
25 settlement agreements submitted to the board of industrial insurance
26 appeals under RCW 51.04.063, other than final orders from the board
27 of industrial insurance appeals. The board of industrial insurance
28 appeals shall provide to the department of labor and industries
29 copies of all final claim resolution settlement agreements;

30 (9) Voluntarily submitted information contained in a database
31 that is part of or associated with 911 emergency communications
32 systems, or information contained or used in emergency notification
33 systems as provided under RCW 38.52.575 and 38.52.577;

34 (10) Information relating to a future voter, as provided in RCW
35 29A.08.725;

36 (11) All information submitted by a person to the state, either
37 directly or through a state-licensed gambling establishment, or
38 Indian tribes, or tribal enterprises that own gambling operations or
39 facilities with class III gaming compacts, as part of the self-

1 exclusion program established in RCW 9.46.071 or 67.70.040 for people
2 with a gambling problem or gambling disorder;

3 (12) Names, addresses, or other personal information of
4 individuals who participated in the bump-fire stock buy-back program
5 under former RCW 43.43.920; (~~and~~)

6 (13) All personal and financial information concerning a player
7 that is received or maintained by the state lottery or any contracted
8 lottery vendor except the player's name and city or town of
9 residence. Additional information may be released only in accordance
10 with prior written permission from the player; and

11 (14) Information collected from individuals who have requested or
12 previously requested changes to sex designation for vital records
13 under chapter 70.58A RCW.

14 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** A new section is added to chapter 46.20
15 RCW to read as follows:

16 (1) The department may not display, transmit, or otherwise make
17 available any record of a person's sex designation except with the
18 consent of the person, given for a specific purpose.

19 (2) Credentials and digital records issued after a change to sex
20 designation must contain only the current sex designation and no
21 indicator that a change occurred.

22 **Sec. 3.** RCW 46.20.091 and 2021 c 158 s 4 are each amended to
23 read as follows:

24 (1) **Application.** In order to apply for a driver's license or
25 instruction permit the applicant must provide the applicant's:

26 (a) Name of record, as established by documentation required
27 under RCW 46.20.035;

28 (b) Date of birth, as established by satisfactory evidence of
29 age;

30 (c) Sex;

31 (d) Washington residence address;

32 (e) Description;

33 (f) Driving licensing history, including:

34 (i) Whether the applicant has ever been licensed as a driver or
35 chauffeur and, if so, (A) when and by what state or country; (B)
36 whether the license has ever been suspended or revoked; and (C) the
37 date of and reason for the suspension or revocation; or

1 (ii) Whether the applicant's application to another state or
2 country for a driver's license has ever been refused and, if so, the
3 date of and reason for the refusal; and

4 (g) Any additional information required by the department.

5 (2) **Sworn statement.** An application for an instruction permit or
6 for an original driver's license must be made upon a form provided by
7 the department. The form must include a section for the applicant to
8 indicate whether the applicant has received driver training and, if
9 so, where. The identifying documentation verifying the name of record
10 must be accompanied by the applicant's sworn statement that it is
11 valid. For an original driver's license, the information provided on
12 the form must be sworn to and signed by the applicant before a person
13 authorized to administer oaths. An applicant who makes a false
14 statement on an application for a driver's license or instruction
15 permit is guilty of false swearing, a gross misdemeanor, under RCW
16 9A.72.040.

17 (3) **Driving records from other jurisdictions.** If a person
18 previously licensed in another jurisdiction applies for a Washington
19 driver's license, the department shall request a copy of the
20 applicant's driver's record from the other jurisdiction. The driving
21 record from the other jurisdiction becomes a part of the driver's
22 record in this state.

23 (4) **Driving records to other jurisdictions.** If another
24 jurisdiction requests a copy of a person's Washington driver's
25 record, the department shall provide a copy of the record. The
26 department shall forward the record without charge if the other
27 jurisdiction extends the same privilege to the state of Washington.
28 Sex designation information is considered sensitive information and
29 must be excluded from any records transmitted to other jurisdictions
30 except with the consent of the person, given for a specific purpose.
31 Otherwise the department shall charge a reasonable fee for
32 transmittal of the record.

33 **Sec. 4.** RCW 70.58A.500 and 2019 c 148 s 18 are each amended to
34 read as follows:

35 (1) The state registrar may amend certification items on state
36 vital records.

37 (2) The state registrar may amend a live birth record to change
38 the name of a person born in state:

1 (a) Upon receipt of a complete and signed amendment application
2 with applicable fees and a certified copy of an order of a court of
3 competent jurisdiction, including the name of the person as it
4 appears on the current live birth record and the new name to be
5 designated on the amended live birth record, under RCW 4.24.130; or

6 (b) As authorized under 18 U.S.C. Sec. 3521, the federal witness
7 relocation and protection act.

8 (3) The state registrar shall seal the original live birth record
9 amended under subsection (2)(b) of this section. The sealed record is
10 not subject to public inspection and copying under chapter 42.56 RCW
11 except upon order of a court of competent jurisdiction.

12 (4) (a) The state registrar may amend a vital record to change the
13 sex designation of the subject of the record. The state registrar
14 shall include a nonbinary option for sex designation on the record.

15 (b) Supporting documentation related to sex designation changes
16 shall be sealed by the state registrar and constitute supporting
17 documentation for the purposes of RCW 42.56.365 and 70.58A.540.

18 (5) The state registrar may amend vital records for purposes
19 other than those established in this section.

20 (6) The state registrar may deny an application to amend a vital
21 record when:

22 (a) The application is not completed or filed in accordance with
23 this chapter;

24 (b) The state registrar has cause to question the validity or
25 adequacy of the applicant's statements or documentary evidence; or

26 (c) The deficiencies under (a) or (b) of this subsection are not
27 addressed to the satisfaction of the state registrar.

28 (7) The state registrar shall provide notice of the denial of an
29 application to amend a vital record and state the reasons for the
30 denial. If the state registrar denies an amendment to a vital record
31 under the provisions of this section, a person may appeal the
32 decision under RCW 70.58A.550.

33 **Sec. 5.** RCW 70.58A.510 and 2019 c 148 s 19 are each amended to
34 read as follows:

35 (1) The state registrar shall develop and implement a
36 preservation management policy for the vital records system for
37 permanent preservation while in the custody of the state registrar.

1 (2) The state registrar shall transfer the custody of vital
2 records to the state archives in accordance with state archival
3 procedures when:

4 (a) One hundred years have elapsed after the date of live birth
5 or fetal death;

6 (b) Twenty-five years have elapsed after the date of death; and

7 (c) Twenty-five years have elapsed after the date of marriage,
8 divorce, dissolution of marriage, dissolution of domestic
9 partnership, declaration of invalidity of marriage, declaration of
10 invalidity of domestic partnership, or legal separation.

11 (3) The state archives may provide noncertified copies of
12 original vital records in the custody of the state archives, due to a
13 transfer under subsection (2) of this section, to the public.

14 (4) The state archives may not:

15 (a) Charge the department a fee or pass along costs to transfer
16 the vital records to state archives or maintain the vital records in
17 the state archives, other than those charged through the central
18 services billing model for the cost of operating the state archives;
19 or

20 (b) Alter, amend, or delete certification items on the vital
21 records.

22 (5) Sealed records must remain sealed and in the custody of the
23 department.

24 (6) In consultation with the state archives, the state registrar
25 shall prescribe the format and method of delivery of vital records
26 transferred to the state archives.

27 (7) The department may retain records for the purpose of issuing
28 certifications under RCW 70.58A.530.

29 (8) The state archives shall not make publicly available or
30 disclose to any recipient other than the department any supporting
31 documentation related to sex designation changes that were
32 transferred pursuant to this section.

33 **Sec. 6.** RCW 70.58A.520 and 2019 c 148 s 20 are each amended to
34 read as follows:

35 (1) The department may disclose vital records information for
36 persons named in any birth, death, or fetal death record only as
37 provided under this chapter.

1 (2) Proposals for research and public health purposes must be
2 reviewed and approved as to scientific merit and adequacy of
3 confidentiality safeguards in accordance with this section.

4 (3) The department may release birth and fetal death record data
5 that includes direct identifiers for research with approval of the
6 state institutional review board and receipt of a signed
7 confidentiality agreement with the department.

8 (4) The department may release birth and fetal death record data
9 that includes direct identifiers for nonresearch public health
10 purposes to a government agency upon receipt of a signed written
11 data-sharing agreement with the department.

12 (5) The department may release birth and fetal death record data
13 that contains only indirect identifiers to anyone upon receipt of a
14 signed written data-sharing agreement with the department.

15 (6) The department may release death record data to anyone upon
16 approval of the department and receipt of a signed written data-
17 sharing agreement with the department.

18 (7) A written data-sharing agreement required under subsections
19 (4) through (6) and (14) through (17) of this section must, at a
20 minimum:

21 (a) Include a description of the type of data needed and the
22 purpose for how the data will be used;

23 (b) Include the methods to be used to protect the confidentiality
24 and security of the data;

25 (c) State that ownership of the data provided under this section
26 remains with the department, and is not transferred to those
27 authorized to receive and use the data under the agreement; and

28 (d) Include the applicable fees for use of the data.

29 (8) In addition to the conditions required by subsection (7) of
30 this section, the written data-sharing agreement for birth and fetal
31 death record data for public health purposes under subsection (4) of
32 this section must:

33 (a) Prohibit redisclosure of any direct or indirect identifiers
34 without explicit permission from the department; and

35 (b) Prohibit the recipient of the data from contacting or
36 attempting to contact the person whose information is included in the
37 data set or that person's family members without explicit permission
38 from the department.

39 (9) In addition to the conditions required by subsection (7) of
40 this section, the written data-sharing agreement for birth or fetal

1 death record data with indirect identifiers under subsection (5) of
2 this section must prohibit the recipient of the data from attempting
3 to determine the identity of persons whose information is included in
4 the data set or use the data in any manner that identifies
5 individuals or their family members.

6 (10) The department and the state institutional review board
7 shall apply the most restrictive law governing data release to
8 proposals for research and public health purposes requesting data
9 sets with direct identifiers for linkage to other data sets.

10 (11) The department may provide the fewest birth and fetal death
11 record data elements necessary for the purpose described in the
12 proposal for research or public health purposes.

13 (12) The department may deny a request for data for cause
14 including, but not limited to, when:

15 (a) Indirect identifiers are sufficient for the purpose described
16 in the proposal for research or public health purposes;

17 (b) The research or public health proposal lacks scientific
18 merit;

19 (c) The department lacks resources or the request would result in
20 an unreasonable use of resources related to data preparation and
21 analysis;

22 (d) The requestor cannot meet the requirements in a data-sharing
23 agreement for protecting the confidentiality of the data; ~~((~~or~~))~~

24 (e) The requestor is out of compliance with an existing data-
25 sharing agreement; or

26 (f) The department determines that there is a reasonable
27 possibility of the data being used to cause or enable harm or
28 disenfranchisement or that its use could reasonably result in
29 disparate impact on the data subject or that otherwise fulfilling the
30 request would not be in the public interest.

31 (13) The department must provide notice of the denial to the
32 requestor and include a statement of the reasons for the denial. If
33 the state registrar denies a request for data under the provisions of
34 this section, a person may appeal the decision under RCW 70.58A.550.

35 (14) The department may release vital records to government
36 agencies in the conduct of official duties upon approval of the state
37 registrar and receipt of a signed written data-sharing agreement with
38 the department that prohibits redisclosure of any direct or indirect
39 identifiers without explicit permission from the department. Vital
40 records information released by the department under this subsection

1 may be limited to only the information necessary to perform the
2 official duties of the agencies to which the information is released.
3 The department may deny requests according to subsection (12) of this
4 section. Government agencies may access records electronically and
5 use of records must be limited to the information needed for official
6 business. The agreement may include cost sharing for support of the
7 electronic system.

8 (15) The department shall make available to the department of
9 social and health services, division of child support, the social
10 security numbers of parents listed on birth records as required for
11 establishing child support upon receipt of a signed written data-
12 sharing agreement with the department.

13 (16) The department may release vital records to the national
14 center for health statistics to be used solely for national
15 statistics upon approval of the state registrar and receipt of a
16 signed written data-sharing agreement with the department.

17 (17) The department may release copies of vital records through
18 an interjurisdictional exchange agreement to offices of vital
19 statistics in states or territories of the United States, the
20 District of Columbia, New York City, or neighboring countries. The
21 records must relate to a resident of, a person born in, or a person
22 who died in the requesting state, territory, the District of
23 Columbia, New York City, or neighboring country.

24 (18) The department may release indices of death, marriage, and
25 divorce records annually to the state archives.

26 (19) Nothing in this chapter may be construed as giving authority
27 to the state or local registrar, department, government agencies, or
28 data recipients to sell or provide access to lists of individuals
29 when requested for commercial purposes.

30 (20) For the purposes of this section:

31 (a) "Data" means a data file containing multiple records.

32 (b) "Direct identifier" means a single data element that
33 identifies an individual person.

34 (c) "Indirect identifier" means a single data element that on its
35 own does not identify an individual person, but when combined with
36 other indirect identifiers can be used to identify an individual
37 person.

38 (d) "Public health purpose" means a purpose that seeks to support
39 or evaluate public health activities which include, but are not
40 limited to, health surveillance; identifying population health

1 trends; health assessments; implementing educational programs;
2 program evaluation; developing and implementing policies; determining
3 needs for access to services and administering services; creating
4 emergency response plans; promoting healthy lifestyles; and
5 preventing, detecting, and responding to infectious diseases, injury,
6 and chronic and inheritable conditions. Public health purpose does
7 not include research as defined in this section.

8 (e) "Research" means a systematic investigation, including
9 research development, testing, and evaluation, designed to develop or
10 contribute to generalizable knowledge. Activities that meet this
11 definition constitute research for purposes of this policy, whether
12 or not they are conducted or supported under a program that is
13 considered research for other purposes.

14 **Sec. 7.** RCW 70.58A.530 and 2025 c 37 s 1 are each amended to
15 read as follows:

16 (1)(a) A certification issued in accordance with this section is
17 considered for all purposes the same as the original vital record and
18 is prima facie evidence of the facts stated therein.

19 (b) An informational copy is not considered the same as the
20 original vital record and does not serve as prima facie evidence of
21 the facts stated therein.

22 (2) The state and local registrar shall issue all certifications
23 registered in the vital records system from the state's central vital
24 records system database upon submission by a qualified applicant of
25 all required information and documentation required either by this
26 chapter or by rule, or both, and shall ensure that all certifications
27 include:

- 28 (a) The date of registration; and
- 29 (b) Security features that deter altering, counterfeiting, or
30 simulation without ready detection as required under this chapter.

31 (3) A person requesting a certification of birth, death, fetal
32 death, or birth resulting in stillbirth must submit an application,
33 identity documentation, evidence of eligibility, and the applicable
34 fee established in RCW 70.58A.560 to the state or local registrar.

35 (4) For a certification of birth, the state or local registrar
36 may release the certification only to:

- 37 (a) The subject of the record or the subject of the record's
38 spouse or domestic partner, child, parent, stepparent, stepchild,
39 sibling, grandparent, great grandparent, grandchild, great

1 grandchild, legal guardian, legal representative, or authorized
2 representative; or

3 (b) A government agency or court, if the certification will be
4 used in the conduct of the agency's or court's official duties,
5 unless the department determines that there is a reasonable
6 possibility of the certification being used to cause or enable harm
7 or disenfranchisement or that its use could reasonably result in
8 disparate impact on the data subject or that otherwise fulfilling the
9 request would not be in the public interest.

10 (5) The state registrar may issue an heirloom certification of
11 birth to a qualified applicant consistent with subsection (4) of this
12 section. The heirloom certification of birth must contain the state
13 seal and be signed by the governor.

14 (6) The state registrar may issue a certification of a birth
15 record registered as delayed under RCW 70.58A.120 or 70.58A.130 to a
16 qualified applicant consistent with subsection (4) of this section.
17 The certification must:

18 (a) Be marked as delayed; and

19 (b) Include a description of the evidence or court order number
20 used to establish the delayed record.

21 (7) The state registrar may issue a certification of a birth
22 record for a person adopted under chapter 26.33 RCW and registered
23 under RCW 70.58A.400 to a qualified applicant consistent with
24 subsection (4) of this section. The certification:

25 (a) Must not include reference to the adoption of the child; and

26 (b) For children born outside of the state, must be issued
27 consistent with the certification standards of this section, unless
28 the court orders otherwise.

29 (8) When providing a birth certification to a qualified applicant
30 under this chapter, the state or local registrar shall include
31 information prepared by the department setting forth the advisability
32 of a security freeze under RCW 19.182.230 and the process for
33 acquiring a security freeze.

34 (9) For a certification of death, the state or local registrar
35 may release the certification only to:

36 (a) The decedent's spouse or domestic partner, child, parent,
37 stepparent, stepchild, sibling, grandparent, great grandparent,
38 grandchild, great grandchild, legal guardian immediately prior to
39 death, legal representative, authorized representative, or next of
40 kin as specified in RCW 11.28.120;

1 (b) A funeral director, the funeral establishment licensed
2 pursuant to chapter 18.39 RCW, or the person having the right to
3 control the disposition of the human remains under RCW 68.50.160
4 named on the death record, within twelve months of the date of death;
5 or

6 (c) A government agency or court, if the certification will be
7 used in the conduct of the agency's or court's official duties.

8 (10) The state or local registrar may issue a short form
9 certification of death that does not display information relating to
10 cause and manner of death to a qualified applicant. In addition to
11 the qualified applicants listed in subsection (9) of this section, a
12 qualified applicant for a short form certification of death includes:

13 (a) A title insurer or title insurance agent handling a
14 transaction involving real property in which the decedent held some
15 right, title, or interest; or

16 (b) A person that demonstrates that the certified copy is
17 necessary for a determination related to the death or the protection
18 of a personal or property right related to the death.

19 (11) The state or local registrar may issue reports of fetal
20 death either as a certification of a fetal death or as a
21 certification of birth resulting in a stillbirth, or both.

22 (12) When issuing a certification of fetal death, the state or
23 local registrar may release the certification only to:

24 (a) A parent, a parent's legal representative, an authorized
25 representative, a sibling, or a grandparent;

26 (b) The funeral director or funeral establishment licensed
27 pursuant to chapter 18.39 RCW and named on the fetal death record,
28 within twelve months of the date of fetal death; or

29 (c) A government agency or court, if the certification will be
30 used in the conduct of the agency's or court's official duties.

31 (13) When issuing a certification of birth resulting in
32 stillbirth, the state or local registrar may release the
33 certification only to the individual who gave birth listed on the
34 fetal death record.

35 (a) A certification of birth resulting in stillbirth must comply
36 with the format requirements prescribed by the state registrar and be
37 in a format similar to a certification of birth.

38 (b) The certification of birth resulting in stillbirth must
39 contain a title at the top of the certification that reads: "This

1 certificate of birth resulting in stillbirth is not proof of a live
2 birth and is not an identity document."

3 (c) Nothing in this subsection (13):

4 (i) May be the basis for a civil cause of action seeking damages
5 or criminal charges against any person or entity for bodily injury,
6 personal injury, or wrongful death for a stillbirth;

7 (ii) Shall alter a woman's rights to reproductive freedom or
8 equal protection under the law, or to alter or supersede any other
9 provision of law; and

10 (iii) Except for the right to request a certification of birth
11 resulting in stillbirth, may constitute the basis of any new right,
12 privilege, or entitlement, or abrogate any existing right, privilege,
13 or entitlement.

14 (14) The state or local registrar shall review the identity
15 documentation and evidence of eligibility to determine if the person
16 requesting the certification is a qualified applicant under this
17 section. The state or local registrar may verify the identity
18 documents and evidence of eligibility to determine the acceptability
19 and authenticity of identity documentation and evidence of
20 eligibility.

21 (15) The state or local registrar may not issue a certification
22 of birth or fetal death, including a certification of birth resulting
23 in stillbirth, that includes information from the confidential
24 section of record, except as provided in subsection (16) of this
25 section.

26 (16) The state registrar may release information contained in the
27 confidential section of the birth record only to the following
28 persons:

29 (a) The individual who is the subject of the birth record, upon
30 confirmation of documentation and evidence of identity of the
31 requestor in a manner approved by the state board of health and the
32 department. The state registrar must limit the confidential
33 information provided to the individual who is the subject of the
34 birth record's information, and may not include the parent's
35 confidential information; or

36 (b) A member of the public, upon order of a court of competent
37 jurisdiction.

38 (17) A person requesting a certification of marriage, dissolution
39 of marriage, or dissolution of domestic partnership currently held by

1 the department must submit an application and the applicable fee
2 established in RCW 70.58A.560 to the state registrar.

3 (18) The state registrar may mark deceased on a birth
4 certification when that birth record is matched to a death record
5 under RCW 70.58A.060.

6 (19) The state or local registrar must issue an informational
7 copy from the central vital records system to anyone. Informational
8 copies must contain only the information allowed by rule.
9 Informational copies of death records must not display information
10 related to cause and manner of death.

11 (20) A person requesting an informational copy must submit an
12 application and the applicable fee established in RCW 70.58A.560 to
13 the state or local registrar.

14 (21) If no record is identified as matching the information
15 provided in the application, the state or local registrar shall issue
16 a document indicating that a search of the vital records system was
17 made and no matching record was identified.

18 (22) All government agencies or courts to whom certifications or
19 informational copies are issued must pay the applicable fee for
20 certifications established in RCW 70.58A.560.

21 (23) The state or local registrar must comply with the
22 requirements of this chapter when issuing a certification or
23 informational copy of a vital life event.

24 (24) The department may issue, through electronic means and
25 processes determined by the department, verifications of information
26 contained on birth or death records filed with the department when a
27 verification is requested by a government agency, insurance company,
28 hospital, or any other organization in the conduct of its official
29 duties for fraud prevention and good governance purposes as
30 determined by the department. The department shall charge a fee for a
31 search under this subsection.

32 (25) For the purposes of this section:

33 (a) "Qualified applicant" means a person who is eligible to
34 receive a certification of a vital record based on the standards
35 established by this chapter and department rule.

36 (b) "Stillbirth" means the same as fetal death as defined in RCW
37 70.58A.010.

38 **Sec. 8.** RCW 70.58A.540 and 2019 c 148 s 22 are each amended to
39 read as follows:

1 (1) All or part of any vital records, reports, supporting
2 documentation, vital statistics, data, or information contained
3 therein, including information related to sex designation changes
4 under this chapter, are not subject to public inspection and copying
5 under chapter 42.56 RCW.

6 (2) With the exception of certifications and informational copies
7 issued under RCW 70.58A.530, or unless otherwise authorized by this
8 chapter, (~~no person may permit the inspection of, disclose data or~~
9 ~~information contained in, or copy or issue a copy of all or part of~~
10 ~~any~~) all vital records, reports, supporting documentation, vital
11 statistics, data, (~~or~~) and information contained therein maintained
12 by the department are confidential and are not subject to state or
13 federal discovery, subpoenas, or other compulsory process.

14 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 9.** This act takes effect January 1, 2028.

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