

HOUSE BILL 618

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7lr1875

By: **Delegates Hornberger, Buckel, Glass, Malone, Metzgar, W. Miller, and Reilly**
Introduced and read first time: January 30, 2017
Assigned to: Health and Government Operations

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Vital Records – Birth, Death, and Fetal Death Certificates – Fees**

3 FOR the purpose of limiting the circumstances under which a fee may be collected by the
4 Department of Health and Mental Hygiene or a local health department for a birth,
5 death, or fetal death certificate requested by an agency of the State or any of its
6 political subdivisions; and generally relating to fees for birth, death, and fetal death
7 certificates.

8 BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,
9 Article – Health – General
10 Section 4–217(a)(1) and (2)
11 Annotated Code of Maryland
12 (2015 Replacement Volume and 2016 Supplement)

13 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
14 Article – Health – General
15 Section 4–217(c)(4)
16 Annotated Code of Maryland
17 (2015 Replacement Volume and 2016 Supplement)

18 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND,
19 That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

20 **Article – Health – General**

21 4–217.

22 (a) (1) Except as provided in subsection (b) of this section, the Secretary shall
23 provide, on request, any person authorized by regulations adopted under this subtitle with
24 a certified or abridged copy of a birth, death, or fetal death certificate registered under this
25 subtitle or of the certificate of a marriage performed after June 1, 1951.

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



(2) Except as provided in subsection (b) of this section, a local health department may:

(i) Access electronically from the Department a certified or abridged copy of a birth certificate registered under this subtitle; and

(ii) On request, provide any person authorized by regulations adopted under this subtitle with a certified or abridged copy of a birth certificate registered under this subtitle.

(c) (4) The Department or a local health department may collect a fee for a certificate requested by an agency of the State or any of its political subdivisions **UNLESS THE CERTIFICATE WAS REQUESTED BY:**

(I) THE AGENCY AS PART OF THE CONDUCT OF THE AGENCY'S OFFICIAL BUSINESS; OR

(II) A PUBLIC OFFICIAL OF THE AGENCY WHO REQUESTS THE CERTIFICATE IN ORDER TO CARRY OUT THE DUTIES OR FUNCTIONS OF THE PUBLIC OFFICIAL'S OFFICE.

SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect October 1, 2017.