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**SUBSTITUTE HOUSE BILL 2056**

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**State of Washington                      52nd Legislature                      1991 Regular Session**

**By** House Committee on Health Care (originally sponsored by Representative Braddock; by request of Department of Health).

Read first time March 6, 1991.

1            AN ACT Relating to vital statistics; adding new sections to chapter  
2 70.58 RCW; and repealing RCW 70.58.200.

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

4            NEW SECTION.    **Sec. 1.**    (1) To promote and maintain nation-wide  
5 uniformity in the system of vital statistics, the certificates required  
6 by this chapter or by the rules adopted under this chapter shall  
7 include, as a minimum, the items recommended by the federal agency  
8 responsible for national vital statistics.

9            (2) The state board of health by rule may require additional  
10 pertinent information relative to the birth and manner of delivery as  
11 it may deem necessary for statistical study. This information shall be  
12 placed in a confidential section of the birth certificate form and  
13 shall not be subject to the view of the public or for certification  
14 purposes except upon order of the court. The state board of health may

1 eliminate from the forms items that it determines are not necessary for  
2 statistical study.

3 (3) Each certificate or other document required by this chapter  
4 shall be on a form or in a format prescribed by the state registrar.

5 (4) All vital records shall contain the data required for  
6 registration. No certificate may be held to be complete and correct  
7 that does not supply all items of information called for or that does  
8 not satisfactorily account for the omission of required items.

9 (5) Information required in certificates or documents authorized by  
10 this chapter may be filed and registered by photographic, electronic,  
11 or other means as prescribed by the state registrar.

12 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** The department is authorized to prescribe  
13 by rule the schedule and system for electronic and hard copy  
14 transmission of certificates and documents required by this chapter.

15 (1) If a birth occurs in an institution or en route to an  
16 institution, the person in charge of the institution or his or her  
17 designated representative shall obtain the personal data and prepare  
18 the certificate of birth. The state registrar may authorize electronic  
19 birth registration.

20 (2) If a birth occurs outside an institution, the certificate shall  
21 be prepared and filed by one of the following with the local registrar  
22 within ten days:

23 (a) The attending physician or licensed midwife at or immediately  
24 after the birth; or in the absence of such a person

25 (b) Any other person in attendance at or immediately after the  
26 birth; or in the absence of such a person

27 (c) The father, the mother, or, in the absence of the father and  
28 the inability of the mother, the person in charge of the premises where  
29 the birth occurred.

1 (3) If a birth occurs on a moving conveyance within the United  
2 States and the child is first removed from the conveyance in Washington  
3 state, the birth shall be registered in Washington state and the place  
4 where the child is first removed shall be considered the place of  
5 birth. If a birth occurs on a moving conveyance while in international  
6 waters or air space or in a foreign country or its air space and the  
7 child is first removed from the conveyance in Washington state, the  
8 birth shall be registered in Washington state but the certificate shall  
9 show the actual place of birth insofar as can be determined.

10 (4) All items on the birth certificate form shall be completed.

11 (5) Information deemed necessary for statistical study shall be  
12 placed in a confidential portion of the birth certificate and shall not  
13 be subject to view by the public or for certification purposes without  
14 a court order.

15 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** The department, in mutual agreement with a  
16 local health officer as defined in RCW 70.05.010, may authorize a local  
17 registrar to access the state-wide birth data base or death data base  
18 and to issue a certified copy of birth or death certificates from the  
19 respective electronic data bases. In such cases, the department may  
20 bill local registrars for line fee charges associated with accessing  
21 birth and death data bases.

22 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 4.** Sections 1 through 3 of this act are each  
23 added to chapter 70.58 RCW.

24 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 5.** RCW 70.58.200 and 1979 ex.s. c 162 s 2,  
25 1975-'76 2nd ex.s. c 42 s 39, 1969 ex.s. c 279 s 2, 1967 c 26 s 10,  
26 1961 ex.s. c 5 s 15, & 1945 c 159 s 6 are each repealed.