
SENATE BILL 5030

State of Washington

69th Legislature

2025 Regular Session

By Senators C. Wilson, Cortes, Harris, Hasegawa, Krishnadasan, Nobles, Saldaña, Salomon, Trudeau, Valdez, and Wellman

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1 AN ACT Relating to improving access to educational services by
2 reducing barriers to obtaining vital records and allowing alternative
3 forms of documentation; amending RCW 70.58A.560; adding a new section
4 to chapter 43.216 RCW; adding a new section to chapter 28A.225 RCW;
5 and creating a new section.

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

7 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The legislature finds that reducing
8 barriers to enrollment in early learning programs and public schools
9 will increase enrollment and well-being for students and families.
10 The legislature finds that fees to obtain vital records, including
11 birth certificates, present a burden to families earning lower
12 incomes. The legislature therefore resolves to improve access to
13 education services by waiving fees to obtain birth certificates for
14 families receiving certain types of public assistance and allowing
15 alternative forms of documentation for enrollment.

16 **Sec. 2.** RCW 70.58A.560 and 2019 c 148 s 24 are each amended to
17 read as follows:

18 (1) The department and local registrars shall charge a fee of
19 (~~twenty-five dollars~~) \$25 for a certification or informational copy
20 of a vital record or for a search of the vital records system when no

1 matching record was identified, except as provided in subsection (2)
2 of this section.

3 (2) The department and local registrars may not charge a fee for
4 issuing a certification of:

5 (a) A vital record for use in connection with a claim for
6 compensation or pension pending before the veterans administration;

7 (b) The death of a sex offender, for use by a law enforcement
8 agency in maintaining a registered sex offender database; (~~(\$)~~)

9 (c) The death of any offender, requested by a county clerk or
10 court in the state for purposes of extinguishing the offender's legal
11 financial obligation; or

12 (d) The birth of a child, requested by a parent or guardian who
13 has a child who is a member of an assistance unit that is eligible
14 for or receiving basic food benefits under the federal supplemental
15 nutrition assistance program or the state food assistance program and
16 is enrolling the child in an early learning program as defined in RCW
17 43.216.010 or a public school as defined in RCW 28A.150.010.
18 Eligibility for benefits described in this subsection can be proven
19 through, among other methods, a benefits letter or unexpired benefits
20 card with a corresponding piece of identification.

21 (3) The department may not charge a fee for issuing a birth
22 certification for homeless persons as defined in RCW 43.185C.010
23 living in state.

24 (4) The department and local registrars may charge an electronic
25 payment fee, in addition to the (~~(twenty-five dollar)~~) \$25 fee for
26 certification and informational copy of vital records or for a search
27 of the vital records system, in cases where payment is made by credit
28 card, charge card, debit card, smart card, stored value card, federal
29 wire, automatic clearinghouse system, or other electronic
30 communication.

31 (5) Local registrars shall keep a true and correct account of all
32 fees received under this section for the issuance of certifications
33 and informational copies.

34 (6) A portion of the (~~(twenty-five dollar)~~) \$25 fee collected by
35 the local registrars must be transmitted to the state treasurer on a
36 monthly basis as follows:

37 (a) (~~(Thirteen dollars)~~) \$13 for each birth certification and
38 birth informational copy issued;

39 (b) (~~(Thirteen dollars)~~) \$13 for each first copy of a death
40 certification and death informational copy; and

1 (c) (~~Twenty—dollars~~) \$20 for each additional death
2 certification and death informational copy.

3 (7) For each fee turned over to the state treasurer by the local
4 registrars, the state treasurer shall:

5 (a) Pay the department (~~two—dollars~~) \$2 of each fee for birth
6 certifications and birth informational copies and first copies of
7 death certifications and death informational copies;

8 (b) Pay the department (~~nine—dollars~~) \$9 of each fee for
9 additional death certifications and death informational copies; and

10 (c) Hold (~~eleven—dollars~~) \$11 of each fee in the death
11 investigations account established under RCW 43.79.445, except for an
12 heirloom birth certification issued under RCW 70.58A.530.

13 (8) (~~Eleven—dollars~~) \$11 of the (~~twenty-five—dollar~~) \$25 fee
14 collected by the department for certifications and informational
15 copies issued by the department must be transmitted to the state
16 treasurer for the death investigations account established under RCW
17 43.79.445.

18 (9) The department of children, youth, and families shall set a
19 fee for an heirloom birth certification established under RCW
20 70.58A.530 for the children's trust fund established under RCW
21 43.121.100. The department shall collect the fee established under
22 this subsection when issuing an heirloom birth certification and
23 transmit the fees collected to the state treasurer for credit to the
24 children's trust fund.

25 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** A new section is added to chapter 43.216
26 RCW under the subchapter heading "early childhood education and
27 assistance" to read as follows:

28 The department shall adopt a rule that requires early childhood
29 education and assistance program contractors and providers to accept
30 birth certificates, passports, and alternative documents to show a
31 child's age or date of birth for the purposes of enrollment.
32 Alternative documents include, but are not limited to, a religious,
33 hospital, or physician's certificate showing the date of birth, an
34 entry in a family bible, an adoption record, an affidavit from a
35 parent, or a previously verified school record.

36 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 4.** A new section is added to chapter 28A.225
37 RCW to read as follows:

1 The office of the superintendent of public instruction shall
2 adopt a rule that requires public schools to accept birth
3 certificates, passports, and alternative documents to show a child's
4 age or date of birth for the purposes of enrollment. Alternative
5 documents include, but are not limited to, a religious, hospital, or
6 physician's certificate showing the date of birth, an entry in a
7 family bible, an adoption record, an affidavit from a parent, or a
8 previously verified school record.

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