

AMENDED IN SENATE MARCH 29, 2016  
AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY JANUARY 7, 2016  
CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE—2015–16 REGULAR SESSION

**ASSEMBLY BILL**

**No. 1546**

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**Introduced by Assembly Member Olsen  
(Coauthors: Assembly Members Daly and Ting)**

September 9, 2015

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An act to *amend Sections 102230 and 103526.5 of, and to add Section 103526.6 to*, the Health and Safety Code, relating to vital records, and declaring the urgency thereof, to take effect immediately.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AB 1546, as amended, Olsen. Vital records.

*Existing law requires the State Registrar to administer the registration of births, deaths, fetal deaths, and marriages. Existing law requires the State Registrar to arrange and permanently preserve the certificates in a systematic manner and to prepare and maintain a comprehensive and continuous index of all certificates registered. Existing law requires that specified birth, death, and marriage record indices prepared or maintained by local registrars and county recorders be kept confidential. Existing law requires, notwithstanding these provisions, local registrars and county recorders to release, when requested, their comprehensive birth and death record indices to the State Registrar.*

*This bill would additionally authorize the local registrar to release those indices to the county recorder within its jurisdiction for purposes of the preparation or maintenance of the indices of the county recorder.*

Existing law prescribes specified personal information to be included on birth, death, and marriage certificates. Under existing law, a certified

copy of a birth or death record may only be supplied by the State Registrar, local registrar, or county recorder to an authorized person, as defined, who submits a statement sworn under penalty of perjury that the applicant is an authorized person. Existing law also requires that each certified copy of a birth, death, or marriage record contain specified information and be printed on sensitized security paper with specified *security* features, including, among others, intaglio print.

*This bill would authorize the State Registrar to suspend the use of any security feature if necessary to enable the State Registrar, local registrar, county recorder, or county clerk to supply an applicant with a certified copy of a birth, death, or marriage record.*

Existing law requires the State Registrar to appoint a Vital Records Protection Advisory Committee to study and make recommendations to protect individual privacy, inhibit identity theft, and prevent fraud involving birth, death, and marriage certificates while providing needed access to the information contained in those records by persons seeking it for a legitimate purpose.

This bill would require the State Registrar, in consultation with the County Recorders’ Association of California and other stakeholders, to study all security features for paper used to print a vital record, or alternative security features that are equal to or better than those that are currently mandated. The bill would require the State Registrar to submit a report to the Legislature, on or before January 1, 2018, that contains the findings of that study and legislative recommendations pertaining to those findings.

This bill would declare that it is to take effect immediately as an urgency statute.

Vote:  $\frac{2}{3}$ . Appropriation: no. Fiscal committee: yes.  
 State-mandated local program: no.

*The people of the State of California do enact as follows:*

- 1     **SECTION 1.** *Section 102230 of the Health and Safety Code is*
- 2     *amended to read:*
- 3     102230. (a) (1) The State Registrar shall arrange and
- 4     permanently preserve the certificates in a systematic manner and
- 5     shall prepare and maintain comprehensive and continuous indices
- 6     of all certificates registered.
- 7     (2) The birth, death, and marriage record indices prepared
- 8     pursuant to paragraph (1) and all comprehensive birth, death, and

1 marriage record indices prepared or maintained by local registrars  
2 and county recorders shall be kept confidential and shall be exempt  
3 from disclosure under the California Public Records Act (Chapter  
4 3.5 (commencing with Section 6250) of Division 7 of Title 1 of  
5 the Government Code).

6 (3) Notwithstanding paragraph (2), the State Registrar, at his  
7 or her discretion, may release comprehensive birth, death, and  
8 nonconfidential marriage record indices to a government agency.  
9 Local registrars and county recorders, when requested, shall release  
10 their comprehensive birth, death, and marriage record indices to  
11 the State Registrar. *Local registrars may release their*  
12 *comprehensive birth, death, and marriage record indices to the*  
13 *county recorder within its jurisdiction for purposes of the*  
14 *preparation or maintenance of the indices of the county recorder.*  
15 A government agency that obtains indices pursuant to this  
16 paragraph shall not sell or release the index or a portion of its  
17 contents to another ~~person~~ *person*, except as necessary for official  
18 government-~~business~~ *business*, and shall not post the indices or  
19 any portion ~~thereof~~ *of the indices* on the Internet.

20 (b) (1) The State Registrar shall prepare and maintain separate  
21 noncomprehensive indices of all California birth, death, and  
22 nonconfidential marriage records for public release.

23 (2) For purposes of this section, noncomprehensive birth record  
24 indices for public release shall be comprised of first, middle, and  
25 last name, sex, date of birth, and place of birth.

26 (3) For purposes of this section, noncomprehensive death record  
27 indices for public release shall be comprised of first, middle, and  
28 last name, sex, date of birth, place of birth, place of death, date of  
29 death, and father's last name.

30 (4) For purposes of this section, noncomprehensive  
31 nonconfidential marriage record indices for public release shall  
32 be comprised of the name of each party to the marriage and the  
33 date of marriage.

34 (5) Requesters of the birth, death, or nonconfidential marriage  
35 record indices prepared pursuant to this subdivision shall provide  
36 proof of identity, complete a form, and sign the form under penalty  
37 of perjury. The form shall include all of the following:

38 (A) The proposed use of the birth, death, or nonconfidential  
39 marriage record indices.

1 (B) A disclaimer crediting analyses, interpretations, or  
2 conclusions reached regarding the birth, death, or nonconfidential  
3 marriage record indices to the author and not to the State  
4 Department of Public Health.

5 (C) Assurance that technical descriptions of the birth, death, or  
6 nonconfidential marriage record indices are consistent with those  
7 provided by the State Department of Public Health.

8 (D) Assurance that the requester shall not sell, assign, or  
9 otherwise transfer the birth, death, or nonconfidential marriage  
10 record indices.

11 (E) Assurance that the requester shall not use the birth or death  
12 record indices for fraudulent purposes.

13 (6) Birth, death, and nonconfidential marriage record indices  
14 obtained pursuant to this subdivision, and any portion thereof,  
15 shall not be used for fraudulent purposes.

16 (c) (1) The State Registrar shall prepare and maintain separate  
17 noncomprehensive indices of all California birth, death, and  
18 nonconfidential marriage records for purposes of law enforcement  
19 or preventing fraud.

20 (2) For purposes of this section, noncomprehensive birth record  
21 indices for the purpose of preventing fraud shall be comprised of  
22 first, middle, and last name, sex, date of birth, place of birth, and  
23 mother's maiden name.

24 (3) For purposes of this section, noncomprehensive death record  
25 indices for the purpose of preventing fraud shall be comprised of  
26 first, middle, and last name, place of death, mother's maiden name,  
27 sex, social security number, date of birth, place of birth, date of  
28 death, and father's last name.

29 (4) For purposes of this section, noncomprehensive  
30 nonconfidential marriage record indices for the purpose of  
31 preventing fraud shall be comprised of the name of each party to  
32 the marriage and the date of marriage.

33 (5) The birth, death, and nonconfidential marriage record indices  
34 prepared pursuant to this subdivision shall be made available to  
35 financial institutions, as defined in Section 6827(4)(A) and (B) of  
36 Title 15 of the United States Code, its representatives or  
37 contractors, consumer credit reporting agencies, as defined in  
38 subdivision (d) of Section 1785.3 of the Civil Code, its  
39 representatives or contractors, those entities providing information  
40 services for purposes of law enforcement or preventing fraud,

1 officers of the court for the sole purpose of verifying a death, and  
2 to persons or entities acting on behalf of law enforcement agencies  
3 or the court, or pursuant to a court order.

4 (6) The birth, death, and nonconfidential marriage record indices  
5 prepared pursuant to this subdivision may be released to a  
6 government agency.

7 (7) Requesters of the birth, death, or nonconfidential marriage  
8 record indices prepared pursuant to this subdivision shall provide  
9 proof of identity, complete a form, and sign the form under penalty  
10 of perjury. The form shall include all of the following:

11 (A) An agreement not to release or allow public access to the  
12 birth, death, or nonconfidential marriage record indices, and an  
13 agreement not to post the indices on the Internet, except as  
14 permitted by this subdivision.

15 (B) The proposed use of the birth, death, or nonconfidential  
16 marriage record indices.

17 (C) The names of all persons within the organization, if  
18 applicable, who will have access to the birth, death, or  
19 nonconfidential marriage record indices.

20 (D) A disclaimer crediting analyses, interpretations, or  
21 conclusions reached regarding the birth, death, or nonconfidential  
22 marriage record indices to the author and not to the State  
23 Department of Public Health.

24 (E) Assurance that technical descriptions of the birth, death, or  
25 nonconfidential marriage record indices are consistent with those  
26 provided by the State Department of Public Health.

27 (F) Assurance that the requester shall not sell, assign, or  
28 otherwise transfer the birth, death, or nonconfidential marriage  
29 record indices, except as permitted by this subdivision.

30 (G) Assurance that the requester shall not use the birth, death,  
31 or nonconfidential marriage record indices for fraudulent purposes.

32 (8) (A) Birth, death, and nonconfidential marriage record  
33 indices, and any portion thereof, obtained pursuant to this section,  
34 shall not be used for fraudulent purposes and shall not be posted  
35 on the Internet.

36 (B) Notwithstanding subparagraph (A), individual information  
37 contained in birth, death, and nonconfidential marriage record  
38 indices may be posted on the Internet if all of the following  
39 requirements are met:

- 1 (i) The individual information is posted on an Internet Web site  
2 that is protected by a password.
- 3 (ii) The individual information is posted on an Internet Web  
4 site that is available to subscribers only for a fee.
- 5 (iii) The individual information is not posted for public display.
- 6 (iv) The individual information is available to subscribers  
7 pursuant to a contractual agreement.
- 8 (v) The individual information is posted for purposes of law  
9 enforcement or preventing fraud.
- 10 (d) Mail-in requests from nongovernmental agencies for birth,  
11 death, and nonconfidential marriage record indices requested  
12 pursuant to subdivisions (b) and (c) shall include a notarized  
13 statement attesting to the identity of the requester.
- 14 (e) Noncomprehensive birth, death, and nonconfidential  
15 marriage record indices pursuant to subdivisions (b) and (c) shall  
16 be updated annually.
- 17 (f) Birth, death, and nonconfidential marriage record indices  
18 provided pursuant to this section shall be made available subject  
19 to cost recovery provisions of the California Public Records Act  
20 (Chapter 3.5 (commencing with Section 6250) of Division 7 of  
21 Title 1 of the Government Code).
- 22 (g) Noncomprehensive birth, death, and nonconfidential  
23 marriage record indices created by local registrars or county  
24 recorders shall be subject to the conditions for release required by  
25 this section.
- 26 (h) A person or entity that obtains a birth, death, or  
27 nonconfidential marriage record index, or any portion thereof,  
28 from a requester who has obtained the index in accordance with  
29 paragraph (7) of subdivision (c) shall not sell, assign, or otherwise  
30 transfer that index, or any portion thereof, to a third party.
- 31 (i) Paragraphs (2) and (3) of subdivision (a) and subdivisions  
32 (b) to (h), inclusive, shall be implemented only to the extent that  
33 funds for these purposes are appropriated by the Legislature in the  
34 annual Budget Act or other statute.
- 35 *SEC. 2. Section 103526.5 of the Health and Safety Code is*  
36 *amended to read:*
- 37 103526.5. (a) Each certified copy of a birth, death, or marriage  
38 record issued pursuant to Section 103525 shall include the date  
39 issued, the name of the issuing officer, the signature of the issuing  
40 officer, whether that is the State Registrar, local registrar, county

1 recorder, or county clerk, or an authorized facsimile thereof, and  
2 the seal of the issuing office.

3 (b) All certified copies of birth, death, and marriage records  
4 issued pursuant to Section 103525 shall be printed on chemically  
5 sensitized security paper that measures 8½ inches by 11 inches  
6 and that has the following features:

- 7 (1) Intaglio print.
- 8 (2) Latent image.
- 9 (3) Fluorescent, consecutive numbering with matching barcode.
- 10 (4) Microprint line.
- 11 (5) Prismatic printing.
- 12 (6) Watermark.
- 13 (7) Void pantograph.
- 14 (8) Fluorescent security threads.
- 15 (9) Fluorescent fibers.
- 16 (10) Any other security features deemed necessary by the State

17 Registrar.

18 (c) *The State Registrar may suspend the use of any security*  
19 *feature described in subdivision (b) if necessary to enable the State*  
20 *Registrar, local registrar, county recorder, or county clerk to*  
21 *supply an applicant with a certified copy of a birth, death, or*  
22 *marriage record issued pursuant to Section 103525.*

23 (e)

24 (d) The State Registrar, local registrars, county recorders, and  
25 county clerks shall take precautions to ensure that uniform and  
26 consistent standards are used statewide to safeguard the security  
27 paper described in subdivision (b), including, but not limited to,  
28 the following measures:

- 29 (1) Security paper shall be maintained under secure conditions  
30 so as not to be accessible to the public.
- 31 (2) A log shall be kept of all visitors allowed in the area where  
32 security paper is stored.
- 33 (3) All spoilage shall be accounted for and subsequently  
34 destroyed by shredding on the premises.

35 **SECTION 4.**

36 *SEC. 3.* Section 103526.6 is added to the Health and Safety  
37 Code, to read:

38 103526.6. (a) The State Registrar, in consultation with the  
39 County Recorders' Association of California and other  
40 stakeholders, shall study all security features for paper used to

1 print a vital record pursuant to Section 103525, or alternative  
2 security features that are equal to or better than those that are  
3 currently mandated.

4 (b) (1) On or before January 1, 2018, the State Registrar shall  
5 submit to the Legislature a report that contains the findings of the  
6 study conducted pursuant to subdivision (a) and legislative  
7 recommendations pertaining to those findings.

8 (2) A report submitted to the Legislature pursuant to this  
9 subdivision shall be submitted in compliance with Section 9795  
10 of the Government Code.

11 ~~SEC. 2.~~

12 *SEC. 4.* This act is an urgency statute necessary for the  
13 immediate preservation of the public peace, health, or safety within  
14 the meaning of Article IV of the Constitution and shall go into  
15 immediate effect. The facts constituting the necessity are:

16 In order for the State Registrar to *allow individuals access to*  
17 *their vital records and to* conduct a study regarding all security  
18 features for paper used to print a vital record, or alternative security  
19 features that are equal to or better than those that are currently  
20 mandated, as soon as possible, and to ensure timely reporting of  
21 the findings of that study to the Legislature, it is necessary that  
22 this act take effect immediately.