

VETO MESSAGE: No

GOVERNOR'S PRESS RELEASE ON SIGNING: Yes

FOLLOWING WERE PRINTED:

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REPORTS: No

HEARINGS: No

NEWSPAPER ARTICLES: No

RWH/JA

P.L.2016, CHAPTER 98, *approved January 9, 2017*
Assembly, No. 2106 (*Second Reprint*)

1 AN ACT concerning birth certificates and amending R.S.26:8-63.

2

3 **BE IT ENACTED** by the Senate and General Assembly of the State
4 of New Jersey:

5

6 1. R.S.26:8-63 is amended to read as follows:

7 26:8-63. The State registrar shall:

8 a. Furnish a certification or certified copy of a birth, marriage,
9 civil union, domestic partnership, fetal death or death certificate
10 without fee in the prosecution of any claim for public pension or for
11 military or naval enlistment purposes; and

12 b. Furnish the United States Public Health Service without
13 expense to the State, microfilm or photocopy images of birth,
14 marriage, civil union, domestic partnership, fetal death and death
15 certificates without payment of the fees prescribed in this article;
16 and

17 c. Furnish a certified transcript of any entry in the records of
18 the New Jersey State census without fee for certification in the
19 prosecution of any claim for public pension, for military or naval
20 enlistment purposes; and

21 d. Furnish without fee upon request for administrative use by
22 any city, State or federal agency a certified transcript of any New
23 Jersey State census entry, or a certification or certified copy of a
24 birth, death, fetal death, marriage, civil union or domestic
25 partnership certificate; and

26 e. Furnish without fee upon request a certified copy of a
27 veteran's death certificate to the veteran's legal representative, the
28 executor or administrator of the veteran's estate, or to a family
29 member authorized to obtain a copy of the death certificate pursuant
30 to subsection a. of R.S.26:8-62. No more than one copy of a
31 veteran's death certificate may be provided without fee pursuant to
32 this subsection; all other copies of the death certificate shall be
33 subject to the statutory fee; and

34 f. Furnish without fee upon request by a homeless person a
35 certified copy of the person's birth certificate, provided that the
36 person submits the request through a social worker or the
37 coordinator of the emergency shelter for the homeless where the
38 person is temporarily residing¹. The request shall be transmitted
39 on the emergency shelter's letterhead and shall include the shelter's
40 employer identification number and an attestation by the² **[social**

EXPLANATION – Matter enclosed in bold-faced brackets **[thus]** in the above bill is not enacted and is intended to be omitted in the law.

Matter underlined thus is new matter

Matter enclosed in superscript numerals has been adopted as follows:

¹Assembly AAP committee amendments adopted October 27, 2016.

²Senate floor amendments adopted November 21, 2016.

1 worker or]² coordinator that the person requesting the certificate is
2 currently homeless and residing at the shelter ²or the request shall
3 be submitted on the social worker’s agency or professional practice
4 letterhead and shall include the agency’s or the professional
5 practice’s employer identification number and an attestation by the
6 social worker that the person requesting the certificate is currently
7 homeless². A certified copy of a birth certificate furnished pursuant
8 to this subsection shall be transmitted to the ²[emergency shelter
9 that] social worker or coordinator who² transmitted the request. No
10 more than one certified copy of a birth certificate furnished to a
11 homeless person pursuant to this subsection shall be provided
12 without fee; all other copies of the birth certificate shall be subject
13 to the statutory fee¹.

14 As used in this [subsection, “fee”] section:

15 “Fee” includes, but is not limited to, any search, certification,
16 processing, authentication, standard shipping, or other fees that
17 would ordinarily be assessed to furnish a certified copy of a [death]
18 certificate or transcript; and

19 “Homeless person” means a person without a domicile who is
20 unable to secure permanent and stable housing as determined by a
21 social worker or the coordinator of an emergency shelter ²for the
22 homeless² established pursuant to P.L.1985, c.48 (C.55:13C-1 et
23 seq.).

24 (cf: P.L.2014, c.87, s.1)

25

26 2. This act shall take effect immediately.

27

28

29

30

31 Permits homeless to receive certified copy of birth certificate
32 without fee.

ASSEMBLY, No. 2106

STATE OF NEW JERSEY 217th LEGISLATURE

PRE-FILED FOR INTRODUCTION IN THE 2016 SESSION

Sponsored by:

Assemblyman RAJ MUKHERJI

District 33 (Hudson)

Assemblywoman ANNETTE CHAPARRO

District 33 (Hudson)

Assemblyman JAMEL C. HOLLEY

District 20 (Union)

Assemblywoman ANGELICA M. JIMENEZ

District 32 (Bergen and Hudson)

Assemblywoman ELIANA PINTOR MARIN

District 29 (Essex)

Co-Sponsored by:

Assemblyman Singleton, Assemblywomen Quijano and McKnight

SYNOPSIS

Permits homeless to receive certified copy of birth certificate without fee.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

Introduced Pending Technical Review by Legislative Counsel.



(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 2/23/2016)

1 AN ACT concerning birth certificates and amending R.S.26:8-63.

2

3 **BE IT ENACTED** *by the Senate and General Assembly of the State*
4 *of New Jersey:*

5

6 1. R.S.26:8-63 is amended to read as follows:

7 26:8-63. The State registrar shall:

8 a. Furnish a certification or certified copy of a birth, marriage,
9 civil union, domestic partnership, fetal death or death certificate
10 without fee in the prosecution of any claim for public pension or for
11 military or naval enlistment purposes; and

12 b. Furnish the United States Public Health Service without
13 expense to the State, microfilm or photocopy images of birth,
14 marriage, civil union, domestic partnership, fetal death and death
15 certificates without payment of the fees prescribed in this article;
16 and

17 c. Furnish a certified transcript of any entry in the records of
18 the New Jersey State census without fee for certification in the
19 prosecution of any claim for public pension, for military or naval
20 enlistment purposes; and

21 d. Furnish without fee upon request for administrative use by
22 any city, State or federal agency a certified transcript of any New
23 Jersey State census entry, or a certification or certified copy of a
24 birth, death, fetal death, marriage, civil union or domestic
25 partnership certificate; and

26 e. Furnish without fee upon request a certified copy of a
27 veteran's death certificate to the veteran's legal representative, the
28 executor or administrator of the veteran's estate, or to a family
29 member authorized to obtain a copy of the death certificate pursuant
30 to subsection a. of R.S.26:8-62. No more than one copy of a
31 veteran's death certificate may be provided without fee pursuant to
32 this subsection; all other copies of the death certificate shall be
33 subject to the statutory fee; and

34 f. Furnish without fee upon request by a homeless person a
35 certified copy of the person's birth certificate, provided that the
36 person submits the request through a social worker or the
37 coordinator of the emergency shelter for the homeless where the
38 person is temporarily residing.

39 As used in this **【subsection, "fee"】** section:

40 "Fee" includes, but is not limited to, any search, certification,
41 processing, authentication, standard shipping, or other fees that
42 would ordinarily be assessed to furnish a certified copy of a **【death】**
43 certificate or transcript; and

44 "Homeless person" means a person without a domicile who is
45 unable to secure permanent and stable housing as determined by a

EXPLANATION – Matter enclosed in bold-faced brackets **【thus】** in the above bill is not enacted and is intended to be omitted in the law.

Matter underlined thus is new matter.

1 social worker or the coordinator of an emergency shelter established
2 pursuant to P.L.1985, c.48 (C.55:13C-1 et seq.).
3 (cf: P.L.2014, c.87, s.1)
4

5 2. This act shall take effect immediately.
6
7

8 STATEMENT
9

10 This bill permits homeless people to obtain free certified copies
11 of their birth certificates by submitting a request for the certificate
12 to the State Registrar of Vital Statistics through a social worker or
13 through the coordinator of the emergency shelter for the homeless
14 where the person is temporarily residing. Because the State
15 Registrar requires that all certified copies of vital records be sent to
16 the requester's address of record, homeless people are currently
17 required to submit any request for a certified copy of a vital record
18 in this manner.

19 The bill defines "homeless person" to mean "a person without a
20 domicile who is unable to secure permanent and stable housing as
21 determined by a social worker or the coordinator of an emergency
22 shelter." The bill additionally revises R.S.26:8-63 to provide that
23 the definition of "fee" applies to the entire section; under current
24 law, the definition is only applied to veteran's death certificates.
25 The bill does not otherwise revise the definition of "fee," which
26 includes, but is not limited to, any search, certification, processing,
27 authentication, standard shipping, or other fees that would
28 ordinarily be assessed to furnish a certified copy of a certificate or
29 transcript.

ASSEMBLY APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE

STATEMENT TO

ASSEMBLY, No. 2106

with committee amendments

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

DATED: OCTOBER 27, 2016

The Assembly Appropriations Committee reports favorably Assembly Bill No. 2106, with committee amendments.

As amended, this bill permits homeless people to obtain one free certified copy of their birth certificates by submitting a request for the certificate to the State Registrar of Vital Statistics through a social worker or through the coordinator of the emergency shelter for the homeless where the person is temporarily residing. Because the State Registrar requires that all certified copies of vital records be sent to the requester's address of record, homeless people are currently required to submit any request for a certified copy of a vital record in this manner.

The bill defines "homeless person" to mean "a person without a domicile who is unable to secure permanent and stable housing as determined by a social worker or the coordinator of an emergency shelter." The bill additionally revises R.S.26:8-63 to provide that the definition of "fee" applies to the entire section; under current law, the definition is only applied to veteran's death certificates. The bill does not otherwise revise the definition of "fee," which includes, but is not limited to, any search, certification, processing, authentication, standard shipping, or other fees that would ordinarily be assessed to furnish a certified copy of a certificate or transcript.

FISCAL IMPACT:

The Office of Legislative Services (OLS) estimates that this bill will result in an indeterminate cost to the State of New Jersey to issue birth certificates to individuals who are homeless. The Office of Vital Statistics in the Department of Health currently charges a \$25 fee to issue an initial certificate of birth, and \$2 for each additional copy. The OLS estimates that the \$25 fee partially offsets the administrative costs to issue the birth certificate. The number of individuals who are homeless and request a birth certificate from the Office each year is not available; therefore the OLS cannot determine with any certainty the total cost of this legislation. However, each certificate which is issued gratis pursuant to this bill will result in \$25 of reduced revenue for the General Fund.

COMMITTEE AMENDMENTS:

The amendments codify the current practice of the Department of Health in providing a homeless person with a copy of the individual's birth certificate, when a request is made by the homeless person through a social worker or the coordinator of the emergency shelter for the homeless where the person is temporarily residing. The amendments limit to one the number of birth certificates that are to be provided without fee to a homeless person, with subsequent copies subject to the statutory fee.

ASSEMBLY HEALTH AND SENIOR SERVICES COMMITTEE

STATEMENT TO

ASSEMBLY, No. 2106

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

DATED: FEBRUARY 22, 2016

The Assembly Health and Senior Services Committee reports favorably Assembly Bill No. 2106.

This bill permits homeless people to obtain free certified copies of their birth certificates by submitting a request for the certificate to the State Registrar of Vital Statistics through a social worker or through the coordinator of the emergency shelter for the homeless where the person is temporarily residing. Because the State Registrar requires that all certified copies of vital records be sent to the requester's address of record, homeless people are currently required to submit any request for a certified copy of a vital record in this manner.

The bill defines "homeless person" to mean "a person without a domicile who is unable to secure permanent and stable housing as determined by a social worker or the coordinator of an emergency shelter." The bill additionally revises R.S.26:8-63 to provide that the definition of "fee" applies to the entire section; under current law, the definition is only applied to veteran's death certificates. The bill does not otherwise revise the definition of "fee," which includes, but is not limited to, any search, certification, processing, authentication, standard shipping, or other fees that would ordinarily be assessed to furnish a certified copy of a certificate or transcript.

This bill was pre-filed for introduction in the 2016-2017 session pending technical review. As reported, the bill includes the changes required by technical review, which has been performed.

STATEMENT TO
[First Reprint]
ASSEMBLY, No. 2106

with Senate Floor Amendments
(Proposed by Senator RUIZ)

ADOPTED: NOVEMBER 21, 2016

This floor amendment clarifies the procedure to be followed when a homeless person requests a free copy of the person's birth certificate. The request is to be made through a social worker or through the coordinator of the emergency shelter for the homeless where the person is staying, on the letterhead of the shelter or the social worker's agency or professional practice, and is to include the address and employer identification number of the emergency shelter or social worker's agency or professional practice. The free copy of the birth certificate is to be transmitted to the social worker or the coordinator who made the request.

LEGISLATIVE FISCAL ESTIMATE

[First Reprint]

ASSEMBLY, No. 2106

STATE OF NEW JERSEY 217th LEGISLATURE

DATED: NOVEMBER 7, 2016

SUMMARY

Synopsis: Permits homeless to receive certified copy of birth certificate without fee.

Type of Impact: Indeterminate, minimal cost and reduction in revenue, General Fund

Agencies Affected: Department of Health

Fiscal Impact	Years 1 to 3
State Cost	Indeterminate, minimal cost
State Revenue	Indeterminate, minimal reduction

- The Office of Legislative Services (OLS) estimates that this bill would result in an indeterminate cost to the State of New Jersey to issue birth certificates to individuals who are homeless.
- The Office of Vital Statistics in the Department of Health currently charges a \$25 fee to issue an initial certificate of birth, and \$2 for each additional copy. The OLS estimates that the \$25 fee partially offsets the administrative costs to issue the birth certificate.
- The number of individuals who are homeless and request a birth certificate from the Office each year is not available; therefore the OLS cannot determine with any certainty the total cost of this legislation. However, each certificate which is issued gratis pursuant to this bill will result in \$25 of reduced revenue for the General Fund.

BILL DESCRIPTION

Assembly Bill No. 2106 (1R) of 2016 permits homeless people to obtain a free certified copy of their birth certificate by submitting a request for the certificate to the State Registrar of Vital Statistics through a social worker or through the coordinator of the emergency shelter for the homeless where the person is temporarily residing. Because the State Registrar requires that all certified copies of vital records be sent to the requester's address of record, homeless people are currently required to submit any request for a certified copy of a vital record in this manner.

The bill defines “homeless person” to mean “a person without a domicile who is unable to secure permanent and stable housing as determined by a social worker or the coordinator of an emergency shelter.” The bill additionally revises R.S.26:8-63 to provide that the definition of “fee” applies to the entire section; under current law, the definition is only applied to veterans’ death certificates. The bill does not otherwise revise the definition of “fee,” which includes, but is not limited to, any search, certification, processing, authentication, standard shipping, or other fees that would ordinarily be assessed to furnish a certified copy of a certificate or transcript.

The bill was amended to require that the request for the birth certificate be submitted on the emergency shelter’s letterhead and include the shelter’s employer identification number. Additionally, the amendments clarify that the person may only receive one certificate free of charge.

FISCAL ANALYSIS

EXECUTIVE BRANCH

None received.

OFFICE OF LEGISLATIVE SERVICES

The OLS estimates that this bill will result in an indeterminate cost to the State and an indeterminate loss of revenue dedicated to the General Fund. The cost cannot be determined due to uncertainty on two factors: the number of persons who are homeless and request a certificate of their birth record is not available; and the total cost to issue the birth certificate is not available.

The Office of Vital Statistics in the Department of Health currently charges a \$25 fee per certificate of birth issued and a \$2 fee for additional copies. The OLS estimates that the cost to issue the birth certificate is not entirely offset by the \$25 fee. The total cost to the State to issue the certificate is not available; however, the OLS notes that pursuant to this bill, each individual who is homeless and requests a certificate of birth will result in reduced State revenue of \$25 per individual.

Section: Human Services

*Analyst: Robin Ford
Lead Fiscal Analyst*

*Approved: Frank W. Haines III
Legislative Budget and Finance Officer*

This legislative fiscal estimate has been produced by the Office of Legislative Services due to the failure of the Executive Branch to respond to our request for a fiscal note.

This fiscal estimate has been prepared pursuant to P.L.1980, c.67 (C.52:13B-6 et seq.).

SENATE, No. 2351

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

217th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED JUNE 9, 2016

Sponsored by:

Senator M. TERESA RUIZ

District 29 (Essex)

Senator FRED H. MADDEN, JR.

District 4 (Camden and Gloucester)

SYNOPSIS

Permits homeless to receive certified copy of birth certificate without fee.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 9/13/2016)

1 AN ACT concerning birth certificates and amending R.S.26:8-63.

2

3 **BE IT ENACTED** by the Senate and General Assembly of the State
4 of New Jersey:

5

6 1. R.S.26:8-63 is amended to read as follows:

7 26:8-63. The State registrar shall:

8 a. Furnish a certification or certified copy of a birth, marriage,
9 civil union, domestic partnership, fetal death or death certificate
10 without fee in the prosecution of any claim for public pension or for
11 military or naval enlistment purposes; and

12 b. Furnish the United States Public Health Service without
13 expense to the State, microfilm or photocopy images of birth,
14 marriage, civil union, domestic partnership, fetal death and death
15 certificates without payment of the fees prescribed in this article;
16 and

17 c. Furnish a certified transcript of any entry in the records of
18 the New Jersey State census without fee for certification in the
19 prosecution of any claim for public pension, for military or naval
20 enlistment purposes; and

21 d. Furnish without fee upon request for administrative use by
22 any city, State or federal agency a certified transcript of any New
23 Jersey State census entry, or a certification or certified copy of a
24 birth, death, fetal death, marriage, civil union or domestic
25 partnership certificate; and

26 e. Furnish without fee upon request a certified copy of a
27 veteran's death certificate to the veteran's legal representative, the
28 executor or administrator of the veteran's estate, or to a family
29 member authorized to obtain a copy of the death certificate pursuant
30 to subsection a. of R.S.26:8-62. No more than one copy of a
31 veteran's death certificate may be provided without fee pursuant to
32 this subsection; all other copies of the death certificate shall be
33 subject to the statutory fee; and

34 f. Furnish without fee upon request by a homeless person a
35 certified copy of the person's birth certificate, provided that the
36 person submits the request through a social worker or the
37 coordinator of the emergency shelter for the homeless where the
38 person is temporarily residing.

39 As used in this **【subsection, "fee"】** section:

40 "Fee" includes, but is not limited to, any search, certification,
41 processing, authentication, standard shipping, or other fees that
42 would ordinarily be assessed to furnish a certified copy of a **【death】**
43 certificate or transcript; and

44 "Homeless person" means a person without a domicile who is
45 unable to secure permanent and stable housing as determined by a

EXPLANATION – Matter enclosed in bold-faced brackets **【thus】** in the above bill is not enacted and is intended to be omitted in the law.

Matter underlined thus is new matter.

1 social worker or the coordinator of an emergency shelter established
2 pursuant to P.L.1985, c.48 (C.55:13C-1 et seq.).

3 (cf: P.L.2014, c.87, s.1)

4

5 2. This act shall take effect immediately.

6

7

8

STATEMENT

9

10 This bill permits homeless people to obtain free certified copies
11 of their birth certificates by submitting a request for the certificate
12 to the State Registrar of Vital Statistics through a social worker or
13 through the coordinator of the emergency shelter for the homeless
14 where the person is temporarily residing. Because the State
15 Registrar requires that all certified copies of vital records be sent to
16 the requester's address of record, homeless people are currently
17 required to submit any request for a certified copy of a vital record
18 in this manner.

19 The bill defines "homeless person" to mean "a person without a
20 domicile who is unable to secure permanent and stable housing as
21 determined by a social worker or the coordinator of an emergency
22 shelter." The bill additionally revises R.S.26:8-63 to provide that
23 the definition of "fee" applies to the entire section; under current
24 law, the definition is only applied to veteran's death certificates.
25 The bill does not otherwise revise the definition of "fee," which
26 includes, but is not limited to, any search, certification, processing,
27 authentication, standard shipping, or other fees that would
28 ordinarily be assessed to furnish a certified copy of a certificate or
29 transcript.

SENATE BUDGET AND APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE

STATEMENT TO

SENATE, No. 2351

with committee amendments

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

DATED: NOVEMBER 3, 2016

The Senate Budget and Appropriations Committee reports favorably Senate Bill No. 2351, with committee amendments.

As amended, this bill permits homeless people to obtain free certified copies of their birth certificates by submitting a request for the certificate to the State Registrar of Vital Statistics through a social worker or through the coordinator of the emergency shelter for the homeless where the person is temporarily residing. Because the State Registrar requires that all certified copies of vital records be sent to the requester's address of record, homeless people are currently required to submit any request for a certified copy of a vital record in this manner.

The bill defines "homeless person" to mean "a person without a domicile who is unable to secure permanent and stable housing as determined by a social worker or the coordinator of an emergency shelter for the homeless." The bill additionally revises R.S.26:8-63 to provide that the definition of "fee" applies to the entire section; under current law, the definition is only applied to veteran's death certificates. The bill does not otherwise revise the definition of "fee," which includes, but is not limited to, any search, certification, processing, authentication, standard shipping, or other fees that would ordinarily be assessed to furnish a certified copy of a certificate or transcript.

COMMITTEE AMENDMENTS:

The amendments clarify the current procedure employed by the Department of Health in processing a request from a homeless person for a copy of the individual's birth certificate, when made by the homeless person. The request must be through a social worker or through the coordinator of the emergency shelter for the homeless where the person is temporarily residing. The amendments limit to one the number of birth certificates that are to be provided without fee to a homeless person, with subsequent copies subject to the statutory fee.

FISCAL IMPACT:

The Office of Legislative Services (OLS) estimates this bill will result in an indeterminate cost to the State to issue birth certificates to individuals who are homeless. The Office of Vital Statistics in the Department of Health currently charges a \$25 fee to issue an initial certificate of birth, and \$2 for each additional copy. The OLS estimates the \$25 fee partially offsets the administrative costs to issue the birth certificate. The number of individuals who are homeless and request a birth certificate from the office each year is not available; therefore the OLS cannot determine with any certainty the total cost to the department. However, each certificate which is issued free pursuant to this bill will result in \$25 of reduced revenue for the General Fund.

SENATE HEALTH, HUMAN SERVICES AND SENIOR
CITIZENS COMMITTEE

STATEMENT TO

SENATE, No. 2351

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

DATED: SEPTEMBER 8, 2016

The Senate Health, Human Services and Senior Citizens Committee reports favorably Senate Bill No. 2351.

This bill permits homeless people to obtain free certified copies of their birth certificates by submitting a request for the certificate to the State Registrar of Vital Statistics through a social worker or through the coordinator of the emergency shelter for the homeless where the person is temporarily residing. Because the State Registrar requires that all certified copies of vital records be sent to the requester's address of record, homeless people are currently required to submit any request for a certified copy of a vital record in this manner.

The bill defines "homeless person" to mean "a person without a domicile who is unable to secure permanent and stable housing as determined by a social worker or the coordinator of an emergency shelter." The bill additionally revises R.S.26:8-63 to provide that the definition of "fee" applies to the entire section; under current law, the definition is only applied to veteran's death certificates. The bill does not otherwise revise the definition of "fee," which includes, but is not limited to, any search, certification, processing, authentication, standard shipping, or other fees that would ordinarily be assessed to furnish a certified copy of a certificate or transcript.

LEGISLATIVE FISCAL ESTIMATE
SENATE, No. 2351
STATE OF NEW JERSEY
217th LEGISLATURE

DATED: OCTOBER 17, 2016

SUMMARY

Synopsis: Permits homeless to receive certified copy of birth certificate without fee.

Type of Impact: Indeterminate, minimal cost and reduction in revenue, General Fund

Agencies Affected: Department of Health

Fiscal Impact	Years 1 to 3
State Cost	Indeterminate, minimal cost
State Revenue	Indeterminate, minimal reduction

- The Office of Legislative Services (OLS) estimates that this bill would result in an indeterminate cost to the State of New Jersey to issue birth certificates to individuals who are homeless.
- The Office of Vital Statistics in the Department of Health currently charges a \$25 fee to issue an initial certificate of birth, and \$2 for each additional copy. The OLS estimates that the \$25 fee partially offsets the administrative costs to issue the birth certificate.
- The number of individuals who are homeless and request a birth certificate from the Office each year is not available; therefore the OLS cannot determine with any certainty the total cost of this legislation. However, each certificate which is issued gratis pursuant to this bill will result in \$25 of reduced revenue for the General Fund.

BILL DESCRIPTION

Senate Bill No. 2351 of 2016 permits homeless people to obtain free certified copies of their birth certificates by submitting a request for the certificate to the State Registrar of Vital Statistics through a social worker or through the coordinator of the emergency shelter for the homeless where the person is temporarily residing. Because the State Registrar requires that all certified copies of vital records be sent to the requester's address of record, homeless people are currently required to submit any request for a certified copy of a vital record in this manner.

The bill defines “homeless person” to mean “a person without a domicile who is unable to secure permanent and stable housing as determined by a social worker or the coordinator of an emergency shelter.” The bill additionally revises R.S.26:8-63 to provide that the definition of “fee” applies to the entire section; under current law, the definition is only applied to veterans’ death certificates. The bill does not otherwise revise the definition of “fee,” which includes, but is not limited to, any search, certification, processing, authentication, standard shipping, or other fees that would ordinarily be assessed to furnish a certified copy of a certificate or transcript.

FISCAL ANALYSIS

EXECUTIVE BRANCH

None received.

OFFICE OF LEGISLATIVE SERVICES

The OLS estimates that this bill will result in an indeterminate cost to the State and an indeterminate loss of revenue dedicated to the General Fund. The cost cannot be determined due to uncertainty on two factors: the number of persons who are homeless and request a certificate of their birth record is not available; and the total cost to issue the birth certificate is not available.

The Office of Vital Statistics in the Department of Health currently charges a \$25 fee per certificate of birth issued and a \$2 fee for additional copies. The OLS estimates that the cost to issue the birth certificate is not entirely offset by the \$25 fee. The total cost to the State to issue the certificate is not available; however, the OLS notes that pursuant to this bill, each individual who is homeless and requests a certificate of birth will result in reduced State revenue of \$25 per individual.

Section: Human Services

*Analyst: Robin Ford
Lead Fiscal Analyst*

*Approved: Frank W. Haines III
Legislative Budget and Finance Officer*

This legislative fiscal estimate has been produced by the Office of Legislative Services due to the failure of the Executive Branch to respond to our request for a fiscal note.

This fiscal estimate has been prepared pursuant to P.L.1980, c.67 (C.52:13B-6 et seq.).

LEGISLATIVE FISCAL ESTIMATE

[First Reprint]

SENATE, No. 2351 STATE OF NEW JERSEY 217th LEGISLATURE

DATED: NOVEMBER 18, 2016

SUMMARY

Synopsis: Permits homeless to receive certified copy of birth certificate without fee.

Type of Impact: Indeterminate, minimal cost and reduction in revenue, General Fund

Agencies Affected: Department of Health

Fiscal Impact	Years 1 to 3
State Cost	Indeterminate, minimal cost
State Revenue	Indeterminate, minimal reduction

- The Office of Legislative Services (OLS) estimates that this bill would result in an indeterminate cost to the State of New Jersey to issue birth certificates to individuals who are homeless.
- The Office of Vital Statistics in the Department of Health currently charges a \$25 fee to issue an initial certificate of birth, and \$2 for each additional copy. The OLS estimates that the \$25 fee partially offsets the administrative costs to issue the birth certificate.
- The number of individuals who are homeless and request a birth certificate from the Office each year is not available; therefore the OLS cannot determine with any certainty the total cost of this legislation. However, each certificate which is issued gratis pursuant to this bill will result in \$25 of reduced revenue for the General Fund.

BILL DESCRIPTION

Senate Bill No. 2351 (1R) of 2016 permits homeless people to obtain a free certified copy of their birth certificate by submitting a request for the certificate to the State Registrar of Vital Statistics through a social worker or through the coordinator of the emergency shelter for the homeless where the person is temporarily residing. Because the State Registrar requires that all

certified copies of vital records be sent to the requester's address of record, homeless people are currently required to submit any request for a certified copy of a vital record in this manner.

The bill defines "homeless person" to mean "a person without a domicile who is unable to secure permanent and stable housing as determined by a social worker or the coordinator of an emergency shelter." The bill additionally revises R.S.26:8-63 to provide that the definition of "fee" applies to the entire section; under current law, the definition is only applied to veterans' death certificates. The bill does not otherwise revise the definition of "fee," which includes, but is not limited to, any search, certification, processing, authentication, standard shipping, or other fees that would ordinarily be assessed to furnish a certified copy of a certificate or transcript.

The bill was amended to require that the request for the birth certificate be submitted on the emergency shelter's letterhead and include the shelter's employer identification number. Additionally, the amendments clarify that the person may only receive one certificate free of charge.

FISCAL ANALYSIS

EXECUTIVE BRANCH

None received.

OFFICE OF LEGISLATIVE SERVICES

The OLS estimates that this bill will result in an indeterminate cost to the State and an indeterminate loss of revenue dedicated to the General Fund. The cost cannot be determined due to uncertainty on two factors: the number of persons who are homeless and request a certificate of their birth record is not available; and the total cost to issue the birth certificate is not available.

The Office of Vital Statistics in the Department of Health currently charges a \$25 fee per certificate of birth issued and a \$2 fee for additional copies. The OLS estimates that the cost to issue the birth certificate is not entirely offset by the \$25 fee. The total cost to the State to issue the certificate is not available; however, the OLS notes that pursuant to this bill, each individual who is homeless and requests a certificate of birth will result in reduced State revenue of \$25 per individual.

Section: Human Services

*Analyst: Robin Ford
Lead Fiscal Analyst*

*Approved: Frank W. Haines III
Legislative Budget and Finance Officer*

This legislative fiscal estimate has been produced by the Office of Legislative Services due to the failure of the Executive Branch to respond to our request for a fiscal note.

This fiscal estimate has been prepared pursuant to P.L.1980, c.67 (C.52:13B-6 et seq.).

Governor Chris Christie Signs Legislation Enhancing Protections For Domestic Violence Survivors

Monday, January 9, 2017 Tags: [Bill Action](#)



Trenton, NJ - Governor Chris Christie today signed legislation to enhance protections for survivors of domestic violence.

This new law will deter domestic violence, partly by increasing criminal penalties for offences including maximums for repeat offenders, as urged in Governor Christie's conditional vetoes of earlier versions of this legislation.

"This new law will help prevent domestic violence in New Jersey by enhancing criminal penalties and ensuring immediate compliance with stronger protective orders," Governor Christie said. "Survivors of domestic violence will be safer than ever before. I am proud we came together to enact this model legislation that is much more than just symbolic and is real reform that fulfills our primary responsibility of improving public safety in New Jersey."

This new law reinforces existing laws by creating a more in-depth process to ensure domestic violence offenders' firearms, identification cards and permits are confiscated as required while they are subject to restraining orders. It forces offenders to immediately upon sentencing – rather than after several days – arrange for the surrender of their firearms, identification cards and permits to a law enforcement officer. It also requires an order for a temporary or final restraining order to include notice to the defendant of the penalties for a violation of any provision of the order, including but not limited to the penalties for contempt of court and unlawful possession of a firearm or other weapon.

In addition to signing S-2483/A-4126 (Weinberg, Beck/Mosquera, Greenwald, Downey, Houghtaling, Munoz, Sumter, Benson, Lampitt, Wimberly) into law, the Governor also took action today on the following legislation:

BILL SIGNINGS:

S-909/A-2688 (Rice/Spencer, Pintor Marin) - Exempts person who remediates property in environmental opportunity zone from remediation funding source requirement

S-976/A-2332 (Gordon, Beck/Benson, Downey, Eustace) - Requires Public Health Council to promulgate rules and regulations for use of quality control programs in bio-analytical and clinical laboratories

S-981/A-2375 (Smith, Bateman, Greenstein/McKeon, Gusciora, Spencer) - Revises "Electronic Waste Management Act"

S-1489/A-1465 (Cruz-Perez, Cunningham/Lampitt, Mosquera, Wimberly, Downey, McKnight) - Ensures equal rights and opportunities for pregnant students in institutions of higher education

S-2098/A-3549 (Sacco, Pennacchio/Johnson, Zwicker, Wisniewski, Benson) - Exempts hydrogen fuel cell-powered vehicles from certain labeling requirements

S-2463/A-3892 (Vitale, Rice, Allen/Vainieri Huttie, Lampitt, Mukherji) - Changes the time when child placement review hearings are initiated from 45 days to 60 days

S-2526/A-4105 (Diegnan, Thompson/Dancer, DeCroce, Clifton, Pinkin, Mukherji) - Designates portion of Interstate Highway Route 195 in Upper Freehold Township as "State Trooper Anthony A. Raspa Memorial Highway"

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More Information

[SENATE BILL NO. 790](#)

[ASSEMBLY BILL NO. 312](#)

S-2601/A-4207 (Pou, Beck/Vainieri Huttie, Holley, Downey, Mukherji, Muoio, Jasey) - Modifies scope of "Sexual Assault Survivor Protection Act of 2015" and enforcement of protective orders under that act

S-2708/A-4064 (Codey/Jasey, McKeon, Mukherji) - Authorizes State Treasurer to convey surplus real property known as Millburn Regional Day School in Millburn Township, Essex County, to Millburn Township Board of Education or to Millburn Township for \$3,550,000

SJR-29/AJR-58 (Weinberg/Vainieri Huttie, Jasey, Jones, McKnight, Phoebus, Wimberly) - Designates one night in November of each year as a "Night of Conversation" about drug and alcohol addiction

A-793/S-316 (Andrzejczak, Land, Taliaferro/Van Drew, Connors) - Requires Dept. of Agriculture and DEP to work with US Army Corps of Engineers to establish joint permit application process for aquaculture projects

A-794/S-317 (Andrzejczak, Land, Taliaferro, Van Drew, Connors) - Requires Dept. of Agriculture and DEP to adopt coordinated permit application and review program for aquaculture projects

A-1424/S-1050 (Johnson, Wimberly, Sumter/Weinberg, Stack) - Authorizes Victims of Crime Compensation Office to make payment for relocation expenses of certain witnesses of crimes

A-2106/S-2351 (Mukherji, Chaparro, Holley, Jimenez, Pintor Marin, Sumter, Wimberly/Ruiz, Madden) - Permits homeless to receive certified copy of birth certificate without fee

A-2107/S-2350 (Mukherji, Holley, Gusciora, Pintor Marin, Wimberly/Ruiz, Madden) - Exempts homeless from fee for non-driver identification cards

A-2158/S-2241 (Coughlin, Wolfe, Holley, McKnight/Diegnan) - Authorizes use of emergency reserve fund or proceeds from bonds issued by EDA to finance school security improvements

A-2763/S-1933 (Mazzeo, Mosquera, Mukherji, Andrzejczak, Land, Houghtaling/Sweeney, Stack) - Enters NJ in Interstate Wildlife Violator Compact

A-3534/S-2086 (A.M. Bucco, Singleton, Webber, Benson, Moriarty/A.R. Bucco, Van Drew) - Permits authorities and local units operating water supply or sewerage facilities to waive, reduce, or defer sewerage and water service fees for deployed military personnel

BILLS VETOED:

S-790/A-3256 (Sarlo, O'Toole/Lagana, Benson, Sumter) – CONDITIONAL - Requires Police Training Commission to develop accelerated training course for certain county corrections officers

A-312/S-2557 (Singleton, Lampitt, Quijano, Pintor Marin, Wimberly, Downey/Cruz-Perez, Stack) – CONDITIONAL - Requires Division of Local Government Services to include certain property tax information on division's web page

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