



WISCONSIN LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL ACT MEMO

2015 Wisconsin Act 142
[2015 Assembly Bill 297]

**Making Certain Vital Records
Available Electronically**

BACKGROUND AND PRIOR LAW

The state vital records law distinguishes between records for events before and after October 1, 1907, which is the date when the state began to collect vital records.

Prior law prohibited making an uncertified photocopy of a vital record for an event occurring before October 1, 1907. Under prior law, a person who made such a record available in an electronic format was guilty of a Class I felony.

Prior law also required an uncertified copy of a record for an event that occurred before that date to state that the document is an uncertified copy, not valid for identification purposes, and that it is illegal to make the document available in an electronic format.

2015 WISCONSIN ACT 142

The Act removes the prohibition and associated criminal penalty for making electronically available a vital record for an event occurring prior to October 1, 1907. The Act requires that an uncertified copy of a record relating to an event occurring before that date include a stamp across its face that reads "NOT FOR IDENTITY PURPOSES."

Effective date: February 6, 2016

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This memo provides a brief description of the Act. For more detailed information, consult the text of the law and related legislative documents at the Legislature's Web site at: <http://www.legis.wisconsin.gov>.