



Legislative Fiscal Bureau

One East Main, Suite 301 • Madison, WI 53703 • (608) 266-3847 • Fax: (608) 267-6873

May 8, 2007

Joint Committee on Finance

Paper #410

Vital Records Fees (DHFS -- Health)

Base Agency

[LFB 2007-09 Budget Summary: Page 304, #1]

CURRENT LAW

Under Chapter 69 of the statutes, the state registrar of vital records (state registrar) and local registrars charge a fee for issuing certified and uncertified copies of vital records such as birth, death, and marriage certificates. The state registrar, but not local registrars, also issues certified and uncertified copies of divorce certificates. The term "local registrar" includes the register of deeds for each of Wisconsin's 72 counties and the public health departments for the cities of West Allis and Milwaukee. Current law also directs the state registrar to charge a fee for providing a range of services related to the state's vital records, such as changing information on a child's birth certificate to reflect a voluntary acknowledgment of paternity or to reflect a court order establishing paternity.

Fees collected by the state registrar for issuing copies of vital records and for providing vital records-related services are currently used primarily to support the operations of the state's vital records office, although a portion of the fee the state registrar charges for issuing a birth certificate is transferred to an appropriation for the benefit of the Child Abuse and Neglect Prevention Board (CANPB). A portion of the fee local registrars charge for issuing a birth certificate is also transferred to the CANPB, with local jurisdictions currently retaining the balance of the fees charged by local registrars.

In 2005-06, the state registrar collected a total of \$2,531,300 in fees for issuing copies of vital records and for providing related services, of which \$517,400 was transferred to the CANPB. In addition, the administration estimates local registrars collected vital records fees of approximately \$4,110,800 in 2005-06, of which \$1,262,500 was transferred to the CANPB.

GOVERNOR

Increase several vital records fees, thereby increasing program revenues to the state by an estimated \$8,009,800 in 2007-08, and \$8,587,300 in 2008-09. The administration estimates that the bill would also increase vital records fee revenue retained by local registrars by an estimated \$2,026,500 in 2007-08, and \$3,524,300 in 2008-09.

DISCUSSION POINTS

1. This paper discusses the Governor's recommendation to increase certain vital records fees. The Governor's bill also includes recommendations regarding the expenditure of the additional program revenues that would be generated by those vital records fee increases. Those recommended uses are discussed separately in the following series of LFB Issue Papers: (1) Vital Records System Automation Project (Paper #411); (2) State Plan for the Prevention of Child Maltreatment (Paper #195); (3) Services for Children and Families -- Meta House (Paper #426); (4) Services for Children and Families -- Early Childhood Initiative in Dane County (Paper #428); (5) Domestic Abuse Services (Paper #425); (6) Services for Children and Families -- Foster Youth Independence Center (Paper #427); (7) Boys and Girls Club of Greater Milwaukee and Youth Summer Jobs Programs (Paper #884); and (8) Increase the Paternity Judgment Vital Records Fee (Paper #908).

2. The administration has recently modified its estimate of how the additional revenues that would be generated under the bill would be allocated between the state and the local registrars. Under the administration's revised estimate, the bill would generate additional program revenue to the state of \$7,111,100 in 2007-08, \$898,700 less than the administration initially estimated. The administration has correspondingly increased its estimate of the additional vital records fees that would be retained by local registrars under the bill in 2007-08 by \$898,700, to \$2,925,200. The administration's modification applies only to its estimates for 2007-08, not to its estimates for 2008-09.

3. Chapter 69 of the statutes assigns to the state registrar a broad range of responsibilities with respect to the state's system of vital records, including the responsibility to accept for registration, assign a date of acceptance, and index and preserve original certificates of birth and death, original marriage documents, and original divorce documents. Information registered and maintained by the state registrar is used for many purposes. For example, individuals often require certified copies of vital records to obtain other official documents such as a driver's license or passport, to enroll in school, to obtain life insurance benefits, to settle an estate, or to enforce child support obligations. Information maintained by the state's vital records system is also used to help administer public health programs, to facilitate population estimates and research, and to assist law enforcement and government assistance investigations.

4. Local registrars are an important part of the state's vital records system. With respect to death certificates, for example, current law requires funeral home directors and other

individuals identified in statute, in the event of a death, to provide a copy of the death certificate to the local registrar, where it is reviewed, signed, numbered, copied, and indexed. The local registrar then sends the original copy of the death certificate to the state registrar. The local registrar is also a primary point of interface between the public and the state's vital records system with respect to birth, death, and marriage records.

5. Both the state registrar and local registrars issue certified and uncertified copies of vital records. A certified copy of a vital record has a raised seal, shows the signature of the state registrar, and is printed on security paper. A certified copy of a vital record can generally be issued only to an individual who submits a written request, pays the requisite fee, and demonstrates they have a "direct and tangible interest" in the record. For purposes of Chapter 69, a person with a direct and tangible interest in a vital record is any of the following: (a) the registrant of the vital record ("registrant" defined as the subject of the record); (b) a member of the registrant's immediate family; (c) the parent of a registrant, unless the parent has had their parental rights terminated; (d) the registrant's legal custodians or guardians; (e) a representative authorized by any of the persons identified in (a) through (d), including an attorney; and (f) any other person who demonstrates a direct and tangible interest when information is necessary to determine or protect a personal or property right.

6. An uncertified copy of a vital record is a photocopy on plain, white paper of the original vital record, and indicates on its face that it is an uncertified copy. Under Chapter 69, the state registrar and local registrars are authorized to issue uncertified copies of vital records to any person who submits a request in writing and pays the requisite fee, although with respect to some records, such as birth records where the mother was not married, the disclosure of information is limited. Typically not accepted for official purposes, uncertified copies of vital records are obtained for a variety of purposes, including genealogical research.

7. The Governor's bill would increase the fees charged by the state registrar and local registrars for providing copies of vital records. The first major category of fees that would be increased by the bill is the fee the state registrar and local registrars charge for issuing one certified or one uncertified copy of a birth certificate. Under current law, that fee is \$12, of which \$7 is transferred to the CANPB. The bill would raise that fee from \$12 to \$20, and would increase the portion transferred to the CANPB from \$7 to \$10. The bill would also require local registrars to transfer to the DHFS vital records program revenue appropriation 60% of the increase in the portion of the fee they retain after transferring \$10 to the CANPB, relative to the portion of the fee they presently retain after transferring \$7 to the CANPB.

8. The second major category of fees that would be increased under the bill is the fee the state registrar and local registrars charge for issuing one certified or one uncertified copy of a vital record other than a birth certificate. These vital records include death, marriage, and (in the case of the state registrar) divorce certificates. Under current law, the state registrar and local registrars charge \$7 to issue one certified or one uncertified copy of those records. The bill would increase that fee to \$20. The bill would also require local registrars to transfer 60% of the recommended fee increase to the DHFS vital records program revenue appropriation. Currently,

local registrars are not required to transfer to the state any portion of the fee they collect for issuing copies of non-birth certificate records.

9. The third major category of fees that would be increased by the bill is the fee the state registrar and local registrars charge for issuing additional copies of birth, death, marriage, and (in the case of the state registrar) divorce certificates. For these purposes, "additional" means any additional copy of the same vital record issued at the same time as the first copy. The current fee for issuing an additional copy of these vital records is \$3. The bill would increase that fee to \$20. In addition, the bill would require local registrars to transfer 60% of this recommended fee increase to the DHFS vital records program revenue appropriation. Current law does not require local registrars to transfer to the state any portion of the fee they collect for issuing additional copies of those records.

10. Table 1, compiled by the administration based on information obtained from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention website and telephone inquiries to neighboring states, summarizes how the bill would increase the fee the state registrar and local registrars charge for issuing one certified or uncertified copy of a birth, marriage, death, or divorce certificate, as well as how the bill would increase the fee for issuing an additional copy of those records. Table 1 also compares the fee increases recommended under the bill to the 50-state average for those fees.

TABLE 1

**Comparison of Wisconsin Vital Records Fees (Current and under SB 40)
to 50-State National Average**

	<u>First Copy Birth Cert.</u>	<u>Add'l Copy Birth Cert.</u>	<u>First Copy Death Cert.</u>	<u>Add'l Copy Death Cert.</u>	<u>First Copy Marr. Cert.</u>	<u>Add'l Copy Marr. Cert.</u>	<u>First Copy Div. Cert.</u>	<u>Add'l Copy Div. Cert.</u>
50-state average	\$14.25	\$10.55	\$12.84	\$9.34	\$12.42	\$10.58	\$12.37	\$11.53
Wisconsin (Current)	\$12.00	\$3.00	\$7.00	\$3.00	\$7.00	\$3.00	\$7.00	\$3.00
Wisconsin (SB 40))	\$20.00	\$20.00	\$20.00	\$20.00	\$20.00	\$20.00	\$20.00	\$20.00

11. As Table 1 indicates, Wisconsin's current fees for issuing the first copy of a birth, death, marriage, and divorce certificate are, in each case, lower than the national average. The same is true with respect to Wisconsin's current fee for issuing an additional copy of those records. As Table 1 also indicates, the bill would, in each case, raise Wisconsin's vital records fee above the national average.

12. In addition to increasing the fees the state registrar and local registrars charge for issuing birth, death, marriage, and divorce certificates, the bill would also increase the fees the state registrar charges for providing a range of services related to the state's vital records. For example,

when the state registrar receives a court order establishing paternity, it currently charges \$10 to insert the name of the adjudicated father on the child's birth certificate if the name of the adjudicated father was omitted on the original certificate. The bill would increase that fee to \$40. The bill would also increase the fee the state registrar charges to insert the name of the father on a child's original birth certificate when it receives a statement signed by both parents acknowledging paternity. The bill would increase the fee the state registrar charges for that service from \$10 to \$20. The bill would also increase the fee state registrar charges for providing expedited service in issuing a vital record from \$10 to \$20. These are three of several vital records-related service fees that would be increased under the bill.

13. Table 2 summarizes the administration's estimate of the total revenue generated under the bill, including the administration's revised estimate of how those total revenues would be allocated between the state (including the CANPB) and local registrars. As indicated, the estimates in Table 2 include revenues that would be generated by local registrars as well as the state registrar. The administration's estimate of the revenue that would be generated by local registrars under the bill is based in part on a DHFS survey of local registrars, rather than actual historical data, and should be viewed with that caveat.

TABLE 2

The Administration's Revised Estimate of Vital Records Fee Revenue under the Bill

FY 2008				FY 2009			
Estimated Revenue by Fee Category				Estimated Revenue by Fee Category			
	<u>Current</u>	<u>Estimated Revenue</u>	<u>Estimated Increase</u>		<u>Current</u>	<u>Estimated Revenue</u>	<u>Estimated Increase</u>
Birth Certificates	\$3,134,700	\$4,869,200	\$1,734,500	Birth Certificates	\$3,158,900	\$5,264,900	\$2,106,000
Death, Marr., Div.	903,400	2,295,900	1,392,500	Death, Marr., Div.	905,500	2,587,100	1,681,600
Additional Copy	1,333,700	7,606,600	6,272,900	Additional Copy	1,338,900	8,925,800	7,586,900
Verification of Cert.	2,100	2,800	700	Verification of Cert.	2,100	3,000	900
Expedited Fees	177,200	324,300	147,100	Expedited Fees	181,700	363,300	181,700
Other Fees	301,600	790,200	488,600	Other Fees	309,100	863,600	554,500
Billing	50,000	50,000	0	Billing	50,000	50,000	0
Birth History Access	<u>920,000</u>	<u>920,000</u>	<u>0</u>	Birth History Access	<u>930,000</u>	<u>930,000</u>	<u>0</u>
	\$6,822,700	\$16,859,000	\$10,036,300		\$6,876,100	\$18,987,700	\$12,111,600
Estimated Revenues by Recipient				Estimated Revenues by Recipient			
	<u>Current</u>	<u>Estimated Revenue</u>	<u>Estimated Increase</u>		<u>Current</u>	<u>Estimated Revenue</u>	<u>Estimated Increase</u>
CANPB	\$1,828,600	\$2,479,000	\$650,400	CANPB	\$1,842,700	\$2,632,500	\$789,700
State (non-CANPB)	2,145,800	8,606,500	6,460,700	State (non-CANPB)	2,185,100	9,982,600	7,797,600
Local Registrars	<u>2,848,300</u>	<u>5,773,500</u>	<u>2,925,200</u>	Local Registrars	<u>2,848,300</u>	<u>6,372,600</u>	<u>3,524,300</u>
	\$6,822,700	\$16,859,000	\$10,036,300		\$6,876,100	\$18,987,700	\$12,111,600

14. As Table 2 indicates, the administration estimates the bill would increase total vital records fee revenue generated by the state registrar and local registrars by \$10,036,300 in 2007-08, and by \$12,111,600 in 2008-09. The great majority of those estimated additional revenues, approximately 94%, would result from the increased fees for issuing first and additional copies of birth, death, marriage, and divorce records. In fact, nearly 63% of the total increased revenue under the bill, as estimated by the administration, would result from raising the fee for additional copies of those records from \$3 to \$20.

15. Table 2 includes revenues related to "Billing" and to "Birth Access History." "Billing" refers to revenue DHFS generates by selling electronic versions of certain vital records information to parties such as DOT, which purchases data on motor vehicle accidents, and DWD, which purchases data needed for workers compensation claims. The bill does not affect this billing revenue. "Birth Access History" refers to birth history information DHFS sells to DWD for federal child support and income maintenance purposes. The federal government reimburses DWD for a portion of these costs and DHFS assumes the balance. The bill does not affect these birth access history revenues.

16. The administration's revised revenue estimates reflected in Table 2 do not make any adjustment for the possibility that the bill's proposed fee increases will impact the number of vital records issued. That assumption could be questioned, particularly with respect to the fee for additional copies, which under the bill would increase from \$3 to \$20. A more reasonable, and for budgeting purposes a more conservative assumption, is that increasing the fee for additional copies of birth, death, marriage, and divorce certificates from \$3 to \$20 would decrease the number of additional copies issued by 10%. Table 2A indicates how that assumption would alter the total estimated revenues that would be generated under the bill in the 2007-09 biennium.

TABLE 2A

**Estimated Revenue under the Bill Assuming
10% Fewer Additional Copies Issued**

FY 2008				FY 2009			
Estimated Revenue by Fee Category				Estimated Revenue by Fee Category			
	<u>Current</u>	<u>Estimated Revenue</u>	<u>Estimated Increase</u>		<u>Current</u>	<u>Estimated Revenue</u>	<u>Estimated Increase</u>
Birth Certificates	\$3,134,700	\$4,869,200	\$1,734,500	Birth Certificates	\$3,158,900	\$5,264,900	\$2,106,000
Death, Marr., Div.	903,400	2,295,900	1,392,500	Death, Marr., Div.	905,500	2,587,100	1,681,600
Additional Copy	1,333,700	6,868,600	5,534,900	Additional Copy	1,338,900	8,033,200	6,694,300
Verification of Cert.	2,100	2,800	700	Verification of Cert.	2,100	3,000	900
Expedited Fees	177,200	324,300	147,100	Expedited Fees	181,700	363,300	181,700
Other Fees	301,600	790,200	488,600	Other Fees	309,100	863,600	554,500
Billing	50,000	50,000	0	Billing	50,000	50,000	0
Birth History Access	<u>920,000</u>	<u>920,000</u>	<u>0</u>	Birth History Access	<u>930,000</u>	<u>930,000</u>	<u>0</u>
	\$6,822,700	\$16,121,000	\$9,298,300		\$6,876,100	\$18,095,100	\$11,219,000

Estimated Revenues by Recipient

	<u>Current</u>	<u>Estimated Revenue</u>	<u>Estimated Increase</u>
CANPB	\$1,828,600	\$2,479,000	\$650,400
State (non-CANPB)	2,145,800	8,118,000	5,972,200
Local Registrars	<u>2,848,300</u>	<u>5,524,000</u>	<u>2,675,700</u>
	\$6,822,700	\$16,121,000	\$9,298,300

Estimated Revenues by Recipient

	<u>Current</u>	<u>Estimated Revenue</u>	<u>Estimated Increase</u>
CANPB	\$1,842,700	\$2,632,500	\$789,700
State (non-CANPB)	2,185,100	9,390,600	7,205,500
Local Registrars	<u>2,848,300</u>	<u>6,072,000</u>	<u>3,223,800</u>
	\$6,876,100	\$18,095,100	\$11,219,000

17. In the event the Committee approves the Governor's recommendations, the revenues summarized in Table 2A are a reasonable estimate of the vital records fees that would be generated during the 2007-09 biennium, subject to the caveats mentioned above.

18. If the Committee decides to modify the amount of vital records fee revenue that could reasonably be expected to be generated under the bill, it has many options, given the number of separate vital records fee increases recommended under the bill. One reasonable approach the Committee could consider in this regard would be to modify the recommended increase to the fee for additional copies of birth, death, marriage, and divorce certificates. There are several reasons why the Committee could decide to target that particular vital records fee for modification. First, the bill's recommended increase in that fee, from \$3 to \$20, accounts for nearly 63% of the total additional revenues that would be generated under the bill, as estimated by the administration. Second, as Table 1 indicates, increasing that fee from \$3 to \$20 would raise Wisconsin's fee for issuing additional copies above the national average. Third, raising the fee for additional copies could especially impact consumers who need to obtain multiple additional copies of a vital record, for instance to enroll their children in school.

19. Table 3 summarizes how the estimated revenues generated under the bill would change if instead of raising the fee for additional copies of birth, death, marriage, and divorce records to \$20, as recommended by the bill, that fee remained at \$3, was increased to \$10, or was increased to \$15. Table 3 also incorporates the assumption that raising the fee for additional copies of these vital records to \$10 or \$15 will result in 10% fewer additional copies being issued, relative to the administration's estimates.

TABLE 3

**Estimated Revenue under the Bill if Fee for Additional Copies
Increased to \$15, Increased to \$10, or Remained at \$3**

FY 2008				FY 2009			
Estimated Revenue by Fee Category				Estimated Revenue by Fee Category			
<u>Fees Per Additional Copy</u>				<u>Fees Per Additional Copy</u>			
	<u>\$15</u>	<u>\$10</u>	<u>\$3</u>		<u>\$15</u>	<u>\$10</u>	<u>\$3</u>
Birth Certificates	\$4,869,200	\$4,869,200	\$4,869,200	Birth Certificates	\$5,264,900	\$5,264,900	\$5,264,900
Death, Marr., Div.	2,295,900	2,295,900	2,295,900	Death, Marr., Div.	2,587,100	2,587,100	2,587,100
Additional Copy	5,208,100	3,547,700	1,333,700	Additional Copy	6,024,900	4,016,600	1,338,900
Verification of Cert.	2,800	2,800	2,800	Verification of Cert.	3,000	3,000	3,000
Expedited Fees	324,300	324,300	324,300	Expedited Fees	363,300	363,300	363,300
Other Fees	790,200	790,200	790,200	Other Fees	863,600	863,600	863,600
Billing	50,000	50,000	50,000	Billing	50,000	50,000	50,000
Birth History Access	<u>920,000</u>	<u>920,000</u>	<u>920,000</u>	Birth History Access	<u>930,000</u>	<u>930,000</u>	<u>930,000</u>
	\$14,460,500	\$12,800,100	\$10,586,100		\$16,086,800	\$14,078,500	\$11,400,800
Estimated Revenues by Recipient				Estimated Revenues by Recipient			
CANPB	\$2,479,000	\$2,479,000	\$2,479,000	CANPB	\$2,632,500	\$2,632,500	\$2,632,500
State (non-CANPB)	7,018,900	5,919,800	4,454,200	State (non-CANPB)	8,058,600	6,726,600	4,950,600
Local Registrars	<u>4,962,600</u>	<u>4,401,300</u>	<u>3,652,900</u>	Local Registrars	<u>5,395,700</u>	<u>4,719,400</u>	<u>3,817,700</u>
	\$14,460,500	\$12,800,100	\$10,586,100		\$16,086,800	\$14,078,500	\$11,400,800
Estimated Increase by Recipient				Estimated Increase by Recipient			
CANPB	\$2,479,000	\$2,479,000	\$2,479,000	CANPB	\$2,632,500	\$2,632,500	\$2,632,500
Current Fees	<u>-1,828,600</u>	<u>-1,828,600</u>	<u>-1,828,600</u>	Current Fees	<u>-1,842,700</u>	<u>-1,842,700</u>	<u>-1,842,700</u>
Increase	\$650,400	\$650,400	\$650,400	Increase	\$789,700	\$789,700	\$789,700
State (non-CANPB)	\$7,018,900	\$5,919,800	\$4,454,200	State (non-CANPB)	\$8,058,600	\$6,726,600	\$4,950,600
Current Fees	<u>-2,145,900</u>	<u>-2,145,900</u>	<u>-2,145,900</u>	Current Fees	<u>-2,185,100</u>	<u>-2,185,100</u>	<u>-2,185,100</u>
Increase	\$4,873,000	\$3,773,900	\$2,308,400	Increase	\$5,873,500	\$4,541,500	\$2,765,500
Local Registrars	\$4,962,600	\$4,401,300	\$3,652,900	Local Registrars	\$5,395,700	\$4,719,400	\$3,817,700
Current Fees	<u>-2,848,300</u>	<u>-2,848,300</u>	<u>-2,848,300</u>	Current Fees	<u>-2,848,300</u>	<u>-2,848,300</u>	<u>-2,848,300</u>
Increase	\$2,114,300	\$1,553,000	\$804,600	Increase	\$2,547,400	\$1,871,100	\$969,400

20. As Table 3 indicates, varying the fee for additional copies of birth, death, marriage, and divorce records does not impact the revenues that would be transferred to the CANPB under the bill, since those revenues are a function of the fees charged for the first copy of a certified or uncertified birth certificate. Varying the fee for additional copies does, however, impact the total amount of vital records fee revenue that would be generated under the bill, as well as the amounts that would be allocated between the state (non-CANPB) and local registrars.

21. A second option the Committee could consider would be to modify the percentage of any vital records fee increases local registrars are required to transfer to the state's vital records program revenue appropriation. Under the bill, local registrars are required to transfer to the state 60% of the increase in the fees they charge for issuing copies of birth, marriage, and death certificates, including additional copies of those certificates (for birth certificates, the calculation is slightly more involved, with the bill requiring local registrars to transfer to the state 60% of the increase in the portion of the fee they retain after transferring \$10 to the CANPB, relative to the portion of the fee they presently retain after transferring \$7 to the CANPB). Table 4 summarizes how the total estimated vital records fee revenue generated under the bill would be allocated between the state and local registrars if local registrars were required to transfer 75%, rather than 60%, of the recommended increases in those fees to the state. Table 4 incorporates the assumption that 10% fewer additional copies of birth, death, marriage, and divorce certificates would be issued if the fee for additional copies is increased above \$3.

TABLE 4

**Allocation of Estimated Revenue under the Bill
if Local Registrars Transfer 75% of Fee Increases to the State**

	FY 2008				FY 2009				
	Estimated Revenues by Recipient				Estimated Revenues by Recipient				
	Fees Per Additional Copy				Fees Per Additional Copy				
	\$20	\$15	\$10	\$3	\$20	\$15	\$10	\$3	
CANPB State	\$2,479,000	\$2,479,000	\$2,479,000	2,479,000	CANPB State	\$2,632,500	\$2,632,500	\$2,632,500	2,632,500
(non-CANPB)	9,121,400	7,811,800	6,502,200	4,755,900	(non-CANPB)	10,599,500	9,013,900	7,428,300	5,314,100
Local Registrars	<u>4,520,600</u>	<u>4,169,700</u>	<u>3,818,900</u>	<u>3,351,200</u>	Local Registrars	<u>4,863,100</u>	<u>4,440,400</u>	<u>4,017,700</u>	<u>3,454,200</u>
	\$16,121,000	\$14,460,500	\$12,800,100	\$10,586,100		\$18,095,100	\$16,086,800	\$14,078,500	\$11,400,800
	Estimated Increase by Recipient				Estimated Increase by Recipient				
	\$20	\$15	\$10	\$3	\$20	\$15	\$10	\$3	
CANPB State	\$650,400	\$650,400	\$650,400	\$650,400	CANPB State	\$789,700	\$789,700	\$789,700	\$789,700
(non-CANPB)	6,975,600	5,666,000	4,356,400	2,610,200	(non-CANPB)	8,414,400	6,828,800	5,243,200	3,129,000
Local Registrars	<u>1,672,300</u>	<u>1,321,400</u>	<u>970,600</u>	<u>502,800</u>	Local Registrars	<u>2,014,800</u>	<u>1,592,100</u>	<u>1,169,400</u>	<u>605,900</u>
	\$9,298,300	\$7,637,800	\$5,977,400	\$3,763,400		\$11,219,000	\$9,210,600	\$7,202,300	\$4,524,600

22. As Table 4 indicates, requiring local registrars to transfer to the state 75% of the indicated fee increases under the bill, rather than 60%, would generate additional program revenue to the state in an amount approximately equal to the state program revenue the administration initially estimated for purposes of its recommendations under the bill. Therefore, if the Committee wished to generate the amount of additional state program revenue during the 2007-09 biennium as

was originally estimated by the administration, the Committee could modify the allocation of vital records fee revenue between the state and local registrars as indicated in Table 4.

23. As noted, Chapter 69 also directs the state registrar to charge fees for providing certain services related to the state's vital records system. For instance, the state registrar currently charges \$20 to prepare a new birth certificate, and to impound the original certificate, when it receives a court order establishing paternity or determining that the man whose name appears on the child's birth certificate is not the child's father. The bill would increase the fee for that service to \$40. The state registrar also currently charges \$10 to insert the name of the adjudicated father on an original birth certificate if the name of the father was omitted on that certificate. The bill would increase the fee for that service to \$40.

24. County child support agencies currently pay a high percentage of the paternity-related vital records fees identified in the preceding Discussion Point. It is estimated that under the bill, the portion paid by those county agencies would increase by approximately \$300,000 annually. Representatives of certain county child support agencies have expressed concern regarding the impact of these recommended fee increases. LFB Paper #908 discusses that issue in greater detail.

25. In addition to possibly modifying the bill's recommended fee increases, the Committee may also decide to modify the bill by inserting a sunset provision with respect to any vital records fee increases it approves. As described in LFB Issue Paper #411, the Governor proposes to use a significant portion of the additional program revenue that would be generated by the bill's fee increases to fund an automation project related to the state's vital records system. The administration's proposal is to finance that project primarily through master lease agreements with initial duration periods of seven years. The Committee could decide to include a sunset provision for any vital records increases that corresponds to the duration periods of those master lease agreements, or to any other period the Committee deems reasonable.

26. Finally, the Committee could delete the provision. Doing so would cause the vital records fees at issue to remain at their current levels, and would require the Committee to approve alternative funding sources if it approved any of the expenditures the Governor's bill would fund from these proposed vital records increases.

ALTERNATIVES TO BASE

A1. Approve the Governor's recommendations. The estimated revenue under this alternative reflects the administration's revised estimate, as explained in Discussion Point 2, and assumes 10% fewer additional copies will be issued, compared to the administration's estimates. Under this alternative, the estimated additional program revenue to the state would be \$6,622,600 (including an additional \$650,400 to the CANPB) in 2007-08, and \$7,995,200 (including an additional \$789,700 to the CANPB) in 2008-09.

ALT A1	Change to Bill Revenue	Change to Base Revenue
PR	- \$1,979,300	\$14,617,800

A2. Modify the Governor's recommendations by increasing the fee charged by the state registrar and local registrars for issuing additional copies of birth, death, marriage, and divorce certificates from \$3 to \$15, rather than from \$3 to \$20. The estimated revenue under this alternative reflects the administration's revised estimate, as explained in Discussion Point 2, and assumes 10% fewer additional copies will be issued, compared to the administration's initial estimates. Under this alternative, the estimated total additional program revenue to the state would be \$5,523,400 (including an additional \$650,400 to the CANPB) in 2007-08, and \$6,663,200 (including an additional \$789,700 to the CANPB) in 2008-09.

ALT A2	Change to Bill Revenue	Change to Base Revenue
PR	- \$4,410,500	\$12,186,600

A3. Modify the Governor's recommendations by increasing the fee charged by the state registrar and local registrars for issuing additional copies of birth, death, marriage, and divorce certificates from \$3 to \$10, rather than from \$3 to \$20. The estimated revenue under this alternative reflects the administration's revised estimate, as explained in Discussion Point 2, and assumes 10% fewer additional copies will be issued, compared to the administration's initial estimates. Under this alternative, the estimated total additional program revenue to the state would be \$4,424,300 (including an additional \$650,400 to the CANPB) in 2007-08, and \$5,331,200 (including an additional \$789,700 to the CANPB) in 2008-09.

ALT A3	Change to Bill Revenue	Change to Base Revenue
PR	- \$6,841,600	\$9,755,500

A4. Modify the Governor's recommendations by keeping the fee charged by the state registrar and local registrars for issuing additional copies of birth, death, marriage, and divorce certificates at \$3, rather than raising that fee from \$3 to \$20. Under this alternative, the estimated total additional program revenue to the state would be \$2,958,800 (including an additional \$650,400 to the CANPB) in 2007-08, and \$3,555,200 (including an additional \$789,700 to the CANPB) in 2008-09.

ALT A4	Change to Bill Revenue	Change to Base Revenue
PR	- \$10,083,100	\$6,514,000

B1. Modify the Governor's recommendations to require a local registrar that collects a fee for issuing a certified copy, an uncertified copy, or additional copies of a birth, death, or marriage certificate, to forward 75% of the increase in that fee under the bill, over the corresponding fee amount under current law, to the Secretary of Administration to be credited to the DHFS vital records program revenue appropriation, except that with respect to the first certified or uncertified copy of a birth certificate, modify the Governor's recommendations to require a local registrar to forward to the Secretary of Administration to be credited to the DHFS vital records program revenue appropriation 75% of the increase in that fee under the bill that remains after \$10 is transferred to the CANPB, over the corresponding fee amount that remained after the local registrar transferred \$7 to the CANPB as required under current law. The estimated revenue under this alternative reflects the administration's revised estimate, as explained in Discussion Point 2, and assumes 10% fewer additional copies will be issued, compared to the administration's initial estimates. Under this alternative, the estimated total additional program revenue to the state would be \$7,626,000 (including an additional \$650,400 to the CANPB) in 2007-08, and \$9,204,100 (including an additional \$789,700 to the CANPB) in 2008-09.

ALT B1	Change to Bill Revenue	Change to Base Revenue
PR	\$233,000	\$16,830,100

B2. Modify the Governor's recommendations regarding the percentage of any vital records fee increased under the bill a local registrar must forward to the Secretary of Administration to be credited to the DHFS vital records program revenue appropriation, consistent with Alternative B1, and further modify the Governor's recommendations by increasing the fee charged by the state registrar and local registrars for issuing additional copies of birth, death, marriage, and divorce certificates from \$3 to \$15, rather than from \$3 to \$20. The estimated revenue under this alternative reflects the administration's revised estimate, as explained in Discussion Point 2, and assumes 10% fewer additional copies will be issued, compared to the administration's initial estimates. Under this alternative, the estimated total additional program revenue to the state would be \$6,316,400 (including an additional \$650,400 to the CANPB) in 2007-08, and \$7,618,500 (including an additional \$789,700 to the CANPB) in 2008-09.

ALT B2	Change to Bill Revenue	Change to Base Revenue
PR	- \$2,662,200	\$13,934,900

B3. Modify the Governor's recommendations regarding the percentage of any vital

records fee increased under the bill a local registrar must forward to the Secretary of Administration to be credited to the DHFS vital records program revenue appropriation, consistent with Alternative B1, and further modify the Governor's recommendations by increasing the fee charged by the state registrar and local registrars for issuing additional copies of birth, death, marriage, and divorce certificates from \$3 to \$10, rather than from \$3 to \$20. The estimated revenue under this alternative reflects the administration's revised estimate, as explained in Discussion Point 2, and assumes 10% fewer additional copies will be issued, compared to the administration's initial estimates. Under this alternative, the estimated total additional program revenue to the state would be \$5,006,800 (including an additional \$650,400 to the CANPB) in 2007-08, and \$6,032,900 (including an additional \$789,700 to the CANPB) in 2008-09.

ALT B3	Change to Bill Revenue	Change to Base Revenue
PR	- \$5,557,400	\$11,039,700

B4. Modify the Governor's recommendations regarding the percentage of any vital records fee increased under the bill a local registrar must forward to the Secretary of Administration to be credited to the DHFS vital records program revenue appropriation, consistent with Alternative B1, and further modify the Governor's recommendations by keeping the fee charged by the state registrar and local registrars for issuing additional copies of birth, death, marriage, and divorce certificates at \$3, rather than increasing that fee from \$3 to \$20. The estimated revenue under this alternative reflects the administration's revised estimate, as explained in Discussion Point 2, and assumes 10% fewer additional copies will be issued, compared to the administration's initial estimates. Under this alternative, the estimated total additional program revenue to the state would be \$3,260,500 (including an additional \$650,400 to the CANPB) in 2007-08, and \$3,918,700 (including an additional \$789,700 to the CANPB) in 2008-09.

ALT B4	Change to Bill Revenue	Change to Base Revenue
PR	- \$9,417,800	\$7,179,300

C. In addition to any of the alternatives under "A" or "B," specify that any vital records fee increase would sunset seven years after the effective date of the increase.

D. Maintain current law.

ALT D	Change to Bill Revenue	Change to Base Revenue
PR	- \$16,597,100	\$0

Prepared by: Eric Peck