

Approved _____

2-15-88
Date _____

MINUTES OF THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC HEALTH AND WELFARE

The meeting was called to order by Marvin L. Littlejohn at
Chairperson

1:30 /a.m./p.m. on February 11, 1988 in room 423-S of the Capitol.

All members were present except:

Representative Branson, excused.

Committee staff present:

Emalene Correll, Research
Norman Furse, Research
Sue Hill, Committee Secretary

Conferees appearing before the committee:

Representative Gene Amos
Lorne A. Phillips, Ph.D., State Registrar, Bureau of Vital Statistics
Jim Snyder, Ks. Board of Funeral Directors
David Isabelle, Finance Director/Local Registrar/Ks.City, Ks.
Representative Mary Jane Johnson
Elizabeth Taylor, Local Health Departments
Mr. Tom Roberts/City Clerk, Ks. City, Kansas
Ruth Keys Clark, President of Ks. Council/Genealogical Society
Norma Robbins, Registrar, Topeka, Kansas
Dr. Roger Carlson, Director of Div. of Laboratories/Research, H.&E.

Chair called meeting to order, thanking all members for their decorum and hard work and cooperation in meeting yesterday while working on difficult legislation. He thanked especially sub-committee for their hard work.

Chair called attention to SB 326, noting this carry-over bill from 1987. It is technical legislation that conform two versions of the same statute in regard to Emergency Medical Service. Currently there is a complete new version of Emergency Medical Service in a new bill. SB 326 is no longer necessary. He asked wishes of members in this regard.

Rep. Amos moved to report SB 326 adversely, seconded by Rep. Buehler, motion carried.

Hearings began on HB 2715:

Chair noted he had received a letter from Mr. Vernon Stallman, President of City Clerks /Municipal Finance Officers Assoc. asking to have a delay in hearings on this bill. Chair noted he had tried in vain to contact Mr. Stallman to inform him the scheduling of hearings had gone through proper channels, and the delay date Mr. Stallman had requested would be after this committee could consider bills at all, thus the delay would have been impossible.

Hearings began.

Representative Gene Amos, offered hand-out, (Attachment No.1) then stated he had requested this legislation. He described a pilot program in Johnson County where Funeral directors would send death certificates directly to the State Registrar in Topeka. He feels all Kansans will be more efficiently served by this direct filing, rather than have it go through the local registrar first. He answered questions, i.e., some local offices send birth and death certificates often, and others do not; the mailing direct to Topeka will save a step, and save time. He urged for support.

CONTINUATION SHEET

MINUTES OF THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC HEALTH AND WELFARE

room 423-S Statehouse, at 1:30 /a.m./p.m. on February 11, 1988

Hearing continued on HB 2715:

Dr. Lorne A. Phillips, Ph.D. State Registrar, Director Bureau of Vital Statistics offered handout, (Attachment No.2). He gave background of process to reduce the number of registrars at the local level. When the initial concept was initiated, the intent was to have a service locally where records could be kept for births occurring outside a hospital setting, and deaths occurring where no funeral director was available. Today these occurrences are rare, so the need is no longer there. There have been two Attorney Generals' opinions stating local registrars' are not authorized to release any information they receive or to issue copies of certificates or verifications. When applicants need certified copies of vital records to apply for death benefits, clear accounts, process insurance claims, proof of identity, they must obtain this from the state level. He urged for passage of HB 2715. He answered questions, i.e., nothing but good comments came from pilot program; there has been a net savings of \$10,000 per county; attorney Generals' opinion 79-95 was read.

Jim Snyder, Executive Director, Ks. Funeral Director's Association gave hand-out, (Attachment No.3). He spoke in favor of HB 2715, noting this legislation would solve problems of delay. Problems some funeral directors have, having businesses in several counties were noted. This bill would allow them to send death certificates directly to the state registrar, rather than to several local offices of registrar. Sending to the local registrar serves no real purpose, as the state office is the only one authorized to give out information to individuals requiring certification copies. Delays at the local level keep surviving families from receiving death certificate information as soon as they might, if these certificates could have been mailed directly to the state level office.

David Isabelle, Finance Director, Local Registrar, Ks. City, Kansas, gave hand-out, (Attachment No.4). He gave chronology of events in requesting legislation regarding the elimination of the offices of local registrar. This legislation has continually been defeated in past years. There is a need for local offices to be able to help people on the local level. Requests are for verification of birthdates for Little League; school enrollment; proof of age for employment; driver's licenses; induction into military; and other reasons. This is not certification. Wyandotte County has a large number of low income people that cannot always manage transportation to Topeka to obtain this information as quickly as they might need it. To retain the local registrar is important. He urged for defeat of this measure. He answered numerous questions, i.e., more, not less authority at the local level is needed; yes, we give persons requesting certification a form, they fill it out, mail to the state registrar; no charge is made for initial filing of verification form, we charge only \$2.00 fee for verification, and the same information obtained at the state level is \$6.00; information is given only to the individual asking for verification on their own birthdate.

Representative Mary Jane Johnson offered hand-out, (Attachment NO.5) a letter from Wyandotte County Funeral Directors opposing this legislation. She read it to members. They propose keeping local registrar and giving him specific authority to certify death records. Issuing certificates on the local level would expedite benefit and insurance claims; veterans benefits; cemetery records; settling estate claims and social security benefits. They felt HB 2715 could be amended to better suit the needs of both funeral directors and citizens of Wyandotte County. Letter authorized by 14 funeral directors. She answered questions.

CONTINUATION SHEET

MINUTES OF THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC HEALTH AND WELFARE,

room 423-S Statehouse, at 1:30 a.m./p.m. on February 11, 1988

Hearings continued on HB 2715:

Elizabeth Taylor, Local Health Departments stated their support of HB 2717.

Ruth Clark, Winchester, Kansas, (Attachment No.6), stated there are many persons researching family history who need information available at the local level. Many persons are doing this research and often it is difficult or impossible for them to go to the Capitol to obtain information. Prior coming to meeting this date, she had contacted 25 local registrars' and they all, without exception, wish to keep the local level offices functioning as they have in the past. Generally all people want from a local registrar is to verify a date, and that legally can be given.

Mr. Tom Roberts, City Clerk, Kansas City, Kansas asked to read the letter from Mr. Vernon Stallman the Chairman spoke of earlier, and asked that it be recorded this date. (see Attachment No. 7.) Mr. Roberts noted he realized scheduling of these hearings was done according to law. He noted local registrars' would be contacting all legislators in regard to their opposition to HB 2715. He answered questions, i.e., yes, there are more home births now than in recent years, there is a definite need on the local level to have verification of birth dates available for people.

Norma Robbins, local registrar in Topeka spoke in favor of HB 2715. She stated they had stacks and stacks of birth registrations, when she started working there several years ago. They had to copy them, send the originals on to the state registrar, then enter copied information as they had time, into their books that were placed in the vault where no one could see them. We are NOT authorized, but NOT prohibited by law to give out information to the public. This should be made clear. She spoke to confidentiality concerns.

Hearings closed on HB 2715.

Hearings began on HB 2759:

Dr. Roger Carlson, Ph.D., Ks. Department of Health/Environment, Director of Laboratories, gave hand-out, (Attachment No.8). He noted in 1981 premarital syphilis tests were abolished. Prenatal testing continues. HB 2759 proposes a change in the focus of approval from persons performing the tests, to a more appropriate laboratory approval approach. This legislation passed both houses last year in the form of SB 271, but died in conference committee due to a controversial amendment. In addition to the prenatal serology test, it is important to insure accuracy of lab tests for drugs of abuse and tests which determine infection with human immunodeficiency virus, (HIV). These test results are crucially important. He noted wording of subsections (d) and (e) dealing with preliminary alcohol screening devices used for law enforcement should not be restricted only to breath test technology. He suggested broadening language in the bill that would speak to this concern. Currently, he said, Kansas does not have a comprehensive state laboratory licensure statute. He answered questions, i.e., initial test is ELISA test, if this is positive, we repeat it the same day, if both positive, we then screen with a test equivalent to Western Blot. ELISA test costs about \$5.00, Western Blot costs about \$35.50; language in bill not meant to eliminate penalty, but to increase it.

Hearings closed on HB 2759.

Meeting adjourned 3:14 p.m.

GUEST REGISTER

HOUSE

PUBLIC HEALTH AND WELFARE COMMITTEE

Date 2-11-1988

NAME	ORGANIZATION	ADDRESS
JIM SNYDER	KFDA	TOPEKA
Chapman Satchell	KDHE	Topeka
Samuel [unclear]	KDHE	Topeka
Norma Robinson	City of Topeka	Topeka
Roger Carlson	KDHE	Topeka
Bill Gein	KDHE	Topeka
Ruth Keys Clark	Ks Council of Genealogical Soc.	Winchester
Mack Smith	mortuary Arts Bd	Topeka
Tom Bell	Ks. Hosp. Assn.	Topeka
Dick Hummel	Ks Health Admin	Topeka
Marilyn Bratt	KINH	Lawrence
KEITH K LANDIS	CHRISTIAN SCIENCE COMMITTEE ON PUBLICATION FOR KANSAS	Topeka
DENNIS STACKCOFF	CITY OF KCK	KCK
Daniel S. [unclear]	City of KCK	KCK
Donna M. Teasley	city of KCK	KCK
Tom G. Roberts	City of KCK	KCK
Richard Morrissey	KDAE	Topeka
Linda Jacobs	LWV - Johnson City	Shawnee, KS
Priscilla [unclear]	" "	Leawood, Ks.
Jan [unclear]	Ks State Hist. Society	Topeka
Jim [unclear]	LWVJC	Leawood, Ks
Mary Ellen [unclear]	St. Francis Med. Center	Wichita

February 11, 1988

*A.G. opinion
-19-95*

Testimony on House Bill 2715

House Public Health and Welfare Committee

I am Gene Amos. As a funeral director in Kansas for over 35 years, one of my main responsibilities is the filing of an original death certificate for each death that occurs.

In Johnson County, up until a couple of years ago, there were three registrars, one at Gardner, one in Olathe and one at Merriam, for the Shawnee Mission area. Each registrar appointed by the State Board of Health was a city clerk, who handled the filing of birth and death certificates for their registration district. Depending on the efficiency of this individual, they would record these certificates and mail these to the Division of Vital Statistics in Topeka. Some would send these once a week and some whenever they got around to it. Some were very slow in mailing these to Topeka.

In our overall service community, we served as a Deputy Registrar in as many as ten districts in Wyandotte, Johnson, Douglas, Leavenworth, Franklin and Miami counties.

We were extremely glad when Johnson County became a test area, one of the 38 counties in the state to send death certificates direct to Topeka. This was extremely good for the families we serve, as they get certified death certificates more quickly. Some of the registration districts cause our families to wait much too long for these death certificates. Families need these to apply for insurance benefits and other benefits of the state. I feel all the people of Kansas will be more efficiently served by filing our original certificates directly with the Division of Vital Statistics.

I would ask you to vote for HB 2715.

*PH rec'd
attm #1
2-11-8*

STATE OF KANSAS



DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENT

Forbes Field

Topeka, Kansas 66620-0001

Phone (913) 296-1500

Mike Hayden, Governor

Stanley C. Grant, Ph.D., Secretary
Gary K. Hulett, Ph.D., Under Secretary

Testimony Presented to

House Public Health and Welfare Committee

by

The Kansas Department of Health and Environment

H.B. 2715

During the 1986 legislative session, the House Governmental Organization Committee made a number of recommendations designed to improve the efficiency of the Bureau of Vital Statistics. The committee recommended that the number of local registrars be reduced to no more than one per county and that serious consideration be given to a direct reporting system which would allow the vital records to be transmitted directly to the Bureau of Vital Statistics from the originating institution rather than through a local registrar's office.

The Bureau of Vital Statistics complied with this directive by decreasing the number of local registrars and by initiating a direct reporting pilot project. Currently, thirty-eight counties participate in the pilot project. To date only positive comments have been heard from those participating in the pilot project. House Bill 2715 proposes to eliminate the remaining local registrars and initiate a state-wide direct reporting system.

When the local registrar concept was initiated, the intent was to have a local person assist with the various registration responsibilities such as preparation of a death certificate when no funeral director was involved, preparation of a birth record when the birth occurred outside a hospital, issuance of burial-removal permits and review certificates to ensure the records were complete before submitting them to the state office.

However, today local registrars are involved in completing very few birth or death certificates as less than one-half of one percent of births occur outside a hospital and virtually all deaths are handled by a funeral director. During the 1982 Legislative Session the burial permit system was abolished except for bodies removed from the state and funeral directors were authorized to issue those permits. In addition, local registrars lack the staff and time to check and query the records illustrated by the fact that the Bureau of Vital Statistics must query, correct or amend approximately 26% of all certificates submitted. Therefore, the original need for the local registrar no longer exists.

Attn. # 2
2-11-8
PNW

It should be noted that local registrars are not authorized to release any information they receive or to issue copies of certificates or verifications. However, a few local registrars continue to issue verifications or birth statements from vital statistics information retained in their office even though there have been at least two Attorney Generals' opinions stating that to do so is a direct violation of K.S.A. 65-2422.

In addition to being in violation of state statutes, there are other reasons vital statistics information should not be released locally. For instance, information retained at the local level is frequently inaccurate as numerous changes are made to the records during the initial registration process; i.e., name changes, date changes, etc. These discrepancies between the information at the local and state level frequently cause confusion, embarrassment, delay, additional costs, etc. for all involved. In addition, amendments, adoptions, court orders, and paternity actions are not reflected at the local level and in most cases the original information is statutorily sealed and to be released only by court order. The fact that the local registrar has no knowledge of this action makes it paramount that information at the local level not be released.

Also, the local registrar records only occurrence data, i.e., actual events that occurred in the registration district. This means that births and deaths of county residents not occurring in the county will not be recorded in the local registrar's journal thereby adding to the incompleteness of the local data. For example, in both 1985 and 1986 about 25% of all births to Wyandotte County residents occurred outside of Wyandotte County and therefore are not recorded in the local registrar's journal.

Applicants need certified copies of vital records in order to apply for death benefits, to clear accounts, to process insurance claims, for proof of identity to obtain Social Security benefits, passports, visas and driver's license, etc. Also, a number of recent changes in both federal and state laws have made the timely processing of vital statistics records and the issuance of certified copies an even higher priority. The requirement of having a birth certificate in order to prove citizenship for employment, HUD housing, for initial school enrollment, for transfer between schools and for income tax purposes has greatly increased the need for prompt filing, processing and issuance of certified copies. Because of these increasing demands, it is most important that the vital statistics system be streamlined to the greatest degree possible to promote efficiency and to expedite turnaround in the issuance of certified copies.

Passage of H.B. 2715 will also facilitate conversion to an electronic birth certificate system whereby vital records are electronically entered at the hospital level and transmitted directly to the state registrar. Timely submittal of vital records is paramount in such a system.

We support H. B. 2715 because it would:

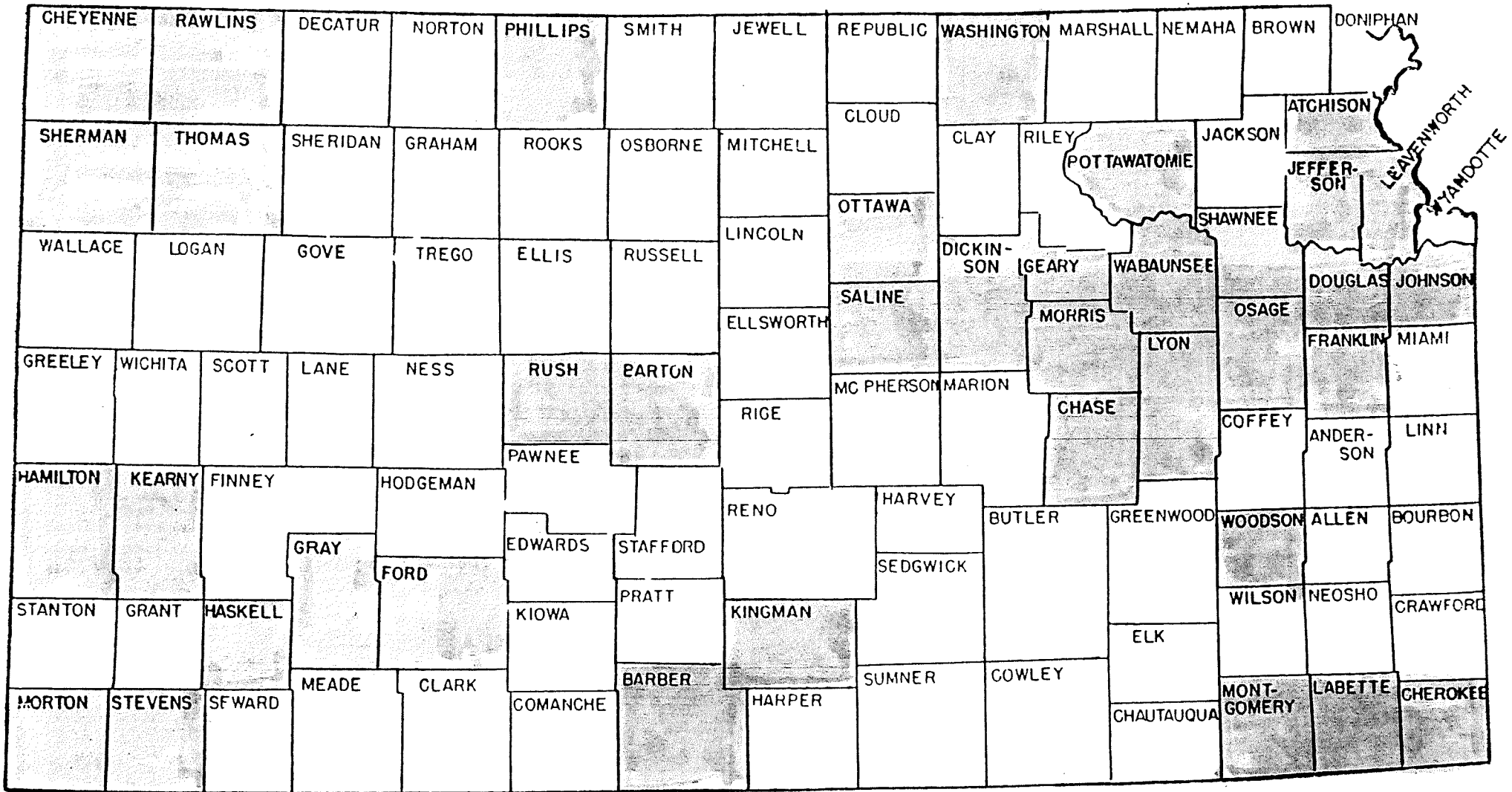
1. Allow only accurate information to be issued to applicants;
2. Expedite the transmittal of vital records to the Bureau of Vital Statistics thereby streamlining the registration process;

3. Increase the efficiency of processing applications for vital statistics records thereby providing more prompt response to public requests;
4. Increase the viability of implementing an electronic birth certificate system; and
5. Support the recommendation and the House Governmental Organization Committee.

We, therefore, urge favorable consideration of this legislation.

Presented by: Lorne A. Phillips, Ph.D.
State Registrar, Bureau of Vital Statistics
February 11, 1988

DIRECT REPORTING PILOT PROJECT



DIRECT REPORTING COUNTIES

ATCHISON	BARBER
BARTON	CHASE
CHEROKEE	CHEYENNE
DICKINSON	DOUGLAS
FORD	FRANKLIN
GEARY	GRAY
HAMILTON	HASKELL
JEFFERSON	JOHNSON
KEARNY	KINGMAN
LABETTE	LEAVENWORTH
LYON	MONTGOMERY
MORRIS	MORTON
OSAGE	OTTAWA
PHILLIPS	POTTAWATOMIE
RAWLINS	RUSH
SALINE	SHAWNEE
SHERMAN	STEVENS
THOMAS	WABAUNSEE
WASHINGTON	WOODSON

TESTIMONY OF
JIM SNYDER, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
KANSAS FUNERAL DIRECTORS ASSOCIATION
FEBRUARY 11, 1988

Mr. Chairman, members of the committee. I am Jim Snyder, Executive Director of the Kansas Funeral Directors Association. Our Association represents nearly 95% of all funeral firms in Kansas.

We favor House Bill 2715. It was just a few short years ago that no funeral firm could send their completed death certificate directly to the Vital Statistics Office in Topeka. They had to take them to a local registrar (usually a City Clerk) who may or may not have logged them in and then forwarded them on to Topeka--hopefully within a week. Since then, however, if a death occurs within one of 38 counties, the funeral director mails the completed death certificate direct to Topeka. As you can see by Dr. Phillips map, these counties range completely across the state.

I have discussed this legislation with a number of those firms who have this privilege and they really believe it helps. They do wish it would be statewide for some confusion exists.

For instance--the two funeral firms in Dodge City also have branches in Cimarron. This is okay if the death occurs in Ford or Gray County. But these two firms also service families in surrounding counties and if the death should occur in Hodgeman, Kiowa, Clark, Meade or Finney County, then instead of mailing the certificate in direct, the funeral director takes it to a 'local registrar', which serves no practical purpose.

Another instance--Firms in Emporia...it is okay if the death is in Lyon or Chase County, but in Greenwood, Coffey or Wabaunsee, then there is additional effort for no practical purpose. And, only keeps the surviving family from receiving certified copies for a while longer.

I'm sure you will hear that some information is taken for health reports of some sort or another. I venture to state this information is not needed so quickly as a family might need an insurance settlement...or control of some tangible property jointly owned. This information could be sent back from Vital Statistics.

*Attn. # 3
2-11-8
PHW*

Another item we like regarding a state-wide application as covered in House Bill 2715 is that before any legal copies are made of the certificate, it is determined it is complete and correct...otherwise there would be (as happens today) death certificates with erroneous information on them floating around.

We ask you act favorably on House Bill 2715. I would be happy to answer any questions.

City of Kansas City, Kansas

DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE



DAVID T. ISABELL
Finance Director
Municipal Office Building
One Civic Center Plaza
Kansas City, Kansas 66101
(913) 573-5270

CHRONOLOGY OF EVENTS

MR. CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE:

BIRTH CERTIFICATES AND DEATH CERTIFICATES

MARCH 6, 1979 - COMMUNICATION TO SENATOR LEROY HAYDEN, EXPRESSING OPPOSITION TO SENATE BILL 446.

JANUARY 7, 1980 - COMMUNICATION TO J. F. STEINEGER REGARDING 1979 SENATE BILL 466 (BILL DIED).

1981 LEGISLATIVE SESSION - SENATE BILL 317 - AGAIN ATTEMPTING TO DO AWAY WITH THE LOCAL REGISTRARS.

OCTOBER 12, 1981, AT THE LEAGUE OF KANSAS MUNICIPALITIES MEETING THE CITY CLERK'S AND MUNICIPAL FINANCE OFFICERS ASSOCIATION ADOPTED A RESOLUTION OPPOSING SENATE BILL 317 AND PROVIDING FOR ALTERNATIVE LEGISLATION THAT WOULD ENHANCE THE ABILITY OF THE LOCAL REGISTRAR TO PROVIDE BIRTH AND DEATH VERIFICATION TO THEIR RESPECTIVE CITIZENS. NOVEMBER 5, 1981, KANSAS CITY, KANSAS, BOARD OF CITY COMMISSIONERS ADOPTED RESOLUTION NO. 33437, SUPPORTING THE CITY CLERK'S AND MUNICIPAL FINANCES OFFICERS ASSOCIATION RESOLUTION AND OPPOSING SENATE BILL 317. IN ADDITION, THE KANSAS LEAGUE OF MUNICIPALITIES SUPPORTED THE CITY CLERK'S AND THE MUNICIPAL FINANCE OFFICERS ASSOCIATION IN THEIR ADOPTION OF THE RESOLUTION PROVIDING ALTERNATIVE LEGISLATION AND OPPOSING SENATE BILL 317. THE RESOLUTION WAS ALSO ENDORSED BY THE KANSAS BAR ASSOCIATION.

1984 SESSION - SENATE BILL 699. SUBJECT BILL WOULD AGAIN CIRCUMVENT THE LOCAL REGISTRAR IN THAT THE BIRTHS AND DEATHS WOULD NO LONGER BE FILED WITH THE LOCAL REGISTRAR BUT RATHER DIRECTLY WITH THE STATE REGISTRAR. THE ARGUMENTS IN OPPOSITION TO THIS BILL ARE THE SAME AS THE ARGUMENTS TO THE

*Attn #4
2-11-81
PH/CLJ*

City of Kansas City, Kansas

DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE



DAVID T. ISABELL
Finance Director
Municipal Office Building
One Civic Center Plaza
Kansas City, Kansas 66101
(913) 573-5270

TWO PREVIOUS BILLS AND INCLUDE THE FOLLOWING:

THE DEMAND FOR VERIFICATION OF BIRTH AND DEATH RECORDS IS AT THE LOCAL LEVEL IN THAT PEOPLE HAVE DIRECT ACCESS TO THE LOCAL REGISTRARS. THE OFFICE OF THE CITY CLERK IN KANSAS CITY, KANSAS, ISSUES BETWEEN 75 AND 100 BIRTH VERIFICATIONS PER WEEK. THESE BIRTH VERIFICATIONS SERVE FOR SCHOOL ENROLLMENT (WHICH SOME SCHOOLS STILL ACCEPT), AND ASSOCIATED ACTIVITIES SUCH AS LITTLE LEAGUE BALL. THEY ALSO SERVE AS PROOF OF AGE FOR INDUCTION INTO THE MILITARY, EMPLOYMENT PURPOSES, SOCIAL SECURITY BENEFITS, MARRIAGE LICENSES, DRIVERS LICENSES, AND IF THE REGISTRATION DATE IS PROVIDED, THEY WILL ALSO SERVE FOR PROOF OF AGE FOR SECURING A PASSPORT.

THE BIRTH VERIFICATION SERVICE PROVIDED BY THE CITY CLERK'S OFFICE IS \$2.00, WHILE THE STATE CHARGES \$6.00 FOR EACH ORIGINAL BIRTH CERTIFICATE AND \$3.00 FOR SUBSEQUENT COPIES. THERE IS ALSO A TIME FACTOR INVOLVED OF AT LEAST TWO WEEKS IN SECURING A COPY OF THE BIRTH CERTIFICATE FROM THE STATE. IN AN EMERGENCY SITUATION A PERSON COULD DRIVE TO THE STATE OFFICE OF VITAL STATISTICS AND SECURE THE BIRTH CERTIFICATE IN ONE DAY. WHILE THIS MAY BE FEASIBLE FOR CITIES LOCATED CLOSE TO TOPEKA, IT IS NOT FEASIBLE FOR CITIES SUCH AS KANSAS CITY, KANSAS; THE ROUND TRIP BEING APPROXIMATELY 120 MILES.

AGAIN, THIS IS EVIDENCE THAT THE SERVICE NEEDS TO BE PROVIDED AT THE LOCAL LEVEL.

City of Kansas City, Kansas

DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE



DAVID T. ISABELL

Finance Director

Municipal Office Building
One Civic Center Plaza
Kansas City, Kansas 66101
(913) 573-5270

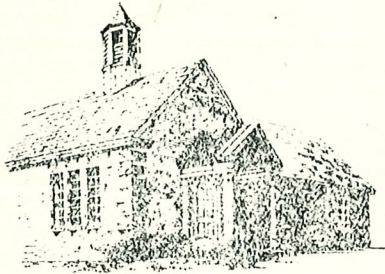
IN WYANDOTTE COUNTY WE HAVE A LARGE NUMBER OF LOW INCOME PEOPLE AND THE PROPOSED BILL WOULD CREATE A HARDSHIP ON A LARGE NUMBER OF OUR CITIZENS, AS FAR AS EXPENSES ARE CONCERNED AND THE LACK OF TRANSPORTATION TO TOPEKA.

ANOTHER AREA THAT THE BILL PURPORTS TO ADDRESS IS THE PROBLEM WITH SECURING THE NECESSARY INFORMATION FROM THE HOSPITALS AND FUNERAL DIRECTORS. CURRENT PRACTICE REQUIRES THAT THESE RECORDS BE FILED WITH THE LOCAL REGISTRAR WHO IN TURN FORWARDS THE RECORDS TO TOPEKA AFTER CREATING HIS LOCAL RECORD. THE LOCAL REGISTRAR IS IN CLOSE GEOLOGICAL PROXIMITY TO THE HOSPITALS AND FUNERAL DIRECTORS AND CAN AND HAS IN THE PAST EXERTED LOCAL INFLUENCE IN AN ATTEMPT TO EXPEDITE THE FILING PROCESS.

IF THE LOCAL REGISTRARS, WHO IN MANY INSTANCES ARE PERSONALLY KNOWN TO HOSPITAL DIRECTORS AND FUNERAL DIRECTORS CANNOT EXPEDITE THE FILING OF RECORDS, HOW DOES THE STATE EXPECT TO EXPEDITE THE FILING OF THESE RECORDS?

THE BASIS OF ALL THE FOREGOING IS THAT THE SERVICE CAN BEST BE PROVIDED AT THE LOCAL LEVEL AND AT SUBSTANTIALLY LESS COST TO THE CITIZENS.

WE SUPPORT LEGISLATION WHICH WOULD GIVE DIRECT STATUTORY AUTHORITY FOR LOCAL REGISTRARS TO ISSUE BIRTH AND DEATH CERTIFICATES.



George F. Porter & Sons
Funeral Home

18th St. Terr. and Minnesota Ave.
P.O. Box 2325
KANSAS CITY, KANSAS 66110
(913) 621-6400

February 11, 1988

Representative Marvin Littlejohn, Chairman
Public Health & Welfare Committee
Room 425 South
State House
Topeka, Kansas 66612

Re: House Bill 2715

Dear Representative Littlejohn and Public
Health & Welfare Committee Members:

The Wyandotte County Funeral Directors wish to express its full, unanimous opposition to House Bill 2715 as proposed. We feel that elimination of the Local Registrar in our county is the wrong approach to take. Currently our local registrar files, records and forwards the death certificates to the Office of Vital Statistics in Topeka within 24 hours. Elimination of this step would not alleviate our main concern of waiting several weeks for certified copies from Topeka.

We propose to keep the local registrar and give him specific authority through Kansas law which would enable him to certify death records in his possession as recorded in his mortality books. We strongly urge the committee to consider this suggested amendment which would eliminate the current procedure which is very inconvenient, lengthy and costly. Issuing certificates on a local level would expedite and benefit insurance claims, veterans benefits, cemetery records, settling estate claims and social security benefits. Plus, we have a good working relationship with our local registrar and it is nice to have a local city clerk who can provide a personal touch to our business dealings.

Although the birth statements issued by our local registrar do not affect our business operations, most of our families have called upon the office for birth verifications for social security, school enrollments, passports, insurance claims and many other uses. We feel this is a very valuable community resource and it would be a disservice to Wyandotte County if it was discontinued.

In conclusion, we feel that the currently proposed House Bill 2715 is misdirected and could be amended to better suit the needs of the Wyandotte County Funeral Directors and the citizens of Wyandotte County. We want to keep the local registrar and by force of Kansas law enable him to certify deaths and births on a local level.

*Attm #5
2-11-8
PHW*

Thank you for your consideration of our request and we ask for your support and assistance in this matter.

Sincerely,

Alden Harrington & Sons
John Harrington/Norma Ward
214 Oak St.
Bonner Springs, KS 66012

Butler Funeral Home
Ron Marts
22 S. 18th
6300 Parallel
Kansas City, KS 66102

Joseph A. Butler & Son
Joseph A. Butler III
19th & Minnesota
Kansas City, KS 66102

Fulton-Nickel Funeral Home
Joe Lister
1319 N. 18th
Kansas City, KS 66102

Highland Park Funeral Home
Glenn Shoults/David Miller
3801 State
Kansas City, KS 66102

Jones-Bailey-English-Franklin
Lawrence A. Jones
2065 N. 5th
Kansas City, KS 66101

Mrs. J.W. Jones
Robert Powell
703 N. 10th
Kansas City, KS 66102

Maple Hill Funeral Home
William H. Young
3300 Shawnee Dr.
Kansas City, KS 66106

Geo. F. Porter & Sons
William F. Porter/Richard L.
Wiseman
1835 Minnesota Ave.
Kansas City, KS 66102

Reising Funeral Home
322 N. 7th
Kansas City, KS 66101
George Reising

Skradski Funeral Home
Matt J. & Helen A. Skradski
340 N. 6th
Kansas City, KS 66101

Simmons Funeral Home
Donald H. Simmons
1404 S. 37th
Kansas City, KS 66106

Thatcher Funeral Home
Quintelle Thatcher Davis
1520 N. 5th
Kansas City, KS 66101

Werner Mortuary
Don Werner
1734 Washington Blvd.
Kansas City, KS 66102



Kansas Council Of Genealogical Societies

Post Office Box 8038
Topeka, Kansas 66608-0038

12 February 1988

TO Committee on Public Health and Welfare

RE House Bill No. 2715

From Ruth Keys Clark, president of Kansas Council
of Genealogical Societies

The Kansas Council of Genealogical Societies was formed in 1974 to provide an instrument for communication between the genealogical societies in Kansas. There are now forty-three active societies in the state and forty-one societies are members of the council. These societies have a total membership of 3800 and I am in communication with all societies in the state each month.

The primary goal of the Council is to encourage the preservation and safeguarding of all records relating to the people of Kansas. History has proved that all records especially vital records are an important source of information for the individual engaged in family history research. Because some records have been destroyed by fire, carelessness etc., we oppose any legislation which would limit the number of places where vital records are kept.

The local registrar has become an important source of information in Kansas for those people in the United States engaged in the second most popular "hobby"--family history research. The local registrar is used by residents of the state and some of our societies feel this is a most important source of information. Those people who live out-state and come to Kansas each year to do family history research-(each year this number grows-it is now well over ten thousand-) usually travel to the local community to see the land their ancestor owned in this state. The local registrar has become an important source of information to these visitors. A visitor to Finney county would find it most frustrating if told to come to Topeka to find a vital record.

The local registrar is providing a needed and useful service to the genealogical community in Kansas and the KCGS would oppose any effort to remove this position from the state.

*Attn. #6
2-11-8
PAW*

CITY CLERKS AND MUNICIPAL FINANCE OFFICERS ASSOCIATION

February 8, 1988

OF KANSAS

Representative Marvin L. Littlejohn
Chairman of House Health and Welfare Committee
Room 4255, State House
Topeka, KS. 66612

RE: House Bill No. 2715

I understand that you are holding a hearing on the Status of Vital Statistics in reference to Local Registrars.

This letter is to notify you that there are many City Clerks in the State, who are Local Registrars. Many of these City Clerks are opposed to the passage of this bill without them having an opportunity to have any input into the hearing. The Local Registrars have not been notified about this bill and as President of the City Clerks and Municipal Finance Officers Association, I am asking that action on this bill be delayed until after the City Clerks and Municipal Finance Officers Association hold their annual meeting March 16-18, 1988. They will then have an opportunity to discuss the implications of the bill and voice their concerns about the ramifications of this bill.

I believe that copies of this proposed bill should be sent to all the Local Registrars in the State and their opinion should be solicited.

The Department of Vital Statistics has tried for several years to get this law changed. Up until this time, the City Clerks-Local Registrars have prevailed in having the law remain unchanged. This year there appears to be an attempt at an end run without notifying the Local Registrars. Is this the way State Legislation is supposed to work?

Again, I ask that any action on this bill be delayed until the City Clerks, who make up most of the Local Registrars, have an opportunity once again to voice their concern about this action.

If you or any of the committee members would like to attend the meeting of the City Clerks and Municipal Finance Officers Association to hear their concerns first hand, please let me know and I will schedule you on the agenda of our business meeting. The business meeting will be held March 16, 1988 from 1:30 P.M. to 3:00 P.M. at the Lawrence Holidome. You and the committee are welcome to attend.

Thank you for your consideration.

Vernon Stallman, CMC/AAFE
Vernon Stallman, President
City Clerks and Municipal Finance Officers Association

VS:na

cc: Tom Roberts, City Clerk, Municipal Building, 701 N. 7th St., Kansas City, KS. 66101

FILED

FEB 10 1988

TOM G. ROBERTS
CITY CLERK

*Attn #7
2-11-8
PHW*

STATE OF KANSAS



DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENT

Forbes Field

Topeka, Kansas 66620-0001

Phone (913) 296-1500

Mike Hayden, Governor

Stanley C. Grant, Ph.D., Secretary

Gary K. Hulett, Ph.D., Under Secretary

Testimony Presented to

House Public Health & Welfare Committee

By

The Kansas Department of Health and Environment

House Bill 2759

The current program for approval of persons performing syphilis serology tests was established in 1975 in response to KSA 65-1,107. At that time, there were mandatory premarital (KSA 23-301) and prenatal (KSA 65-153f) syphilis test requirements. However, in 1981 it was determined that the more than 40,000 premarital syphilis tests performed each year were of little value in the epidemiologic control of this disease and the premarital requirement was subsequently abolished. The prenatal test requirement remains as an effective deterrent against the devastating effects of congenital syphilis. This is a preventable disease when prenatal testing, treatment, and surveillance programs are successfully carried out and when accurate laboratory test results are produced. To assure the quality of test results, HB 2759 proposes a change in the focus of approval from persons performing the tests, to a more appropriate laboratory approval approach. This change is reflective of the knowledge that additional considerations such as adequate laboratory facilities, dependable test reagents, quality control methods, and standard operating procedures are certainly as essential as trained analysts in the development of an accurate test result. This proposed change successfully passed both houses of the legislature last year as SB 271. However, the bill died in conference committee due to a controversial amendment.

In addition to the prenatal syphilis serology tests required by law, it is particularly important to insure the accuracy of laboratory tests for drugs of abuse and laboratory tests which determine infection with human immunodeficiency virus (HIV). These tests results are crucially important because they are widely used in a variety of applications and can have a direct effect on the health, prosecution, insurability and employment status of any Kansas citizen.

Finally, it has been suggested that the wording of subsections (d) and (e) which deal with preliminary alcohol screening devices used for law enforcement purposes should not be restricted only to breath test technology. Although this change was not proposed in the bill draft, there may be value in

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broadening the wording of these subsections and KSA 8-1012 to permit the evaluation of other technologies for preliminary screening tests.

In summary, Kansas does not currently have a comprehensive state laboratory licensure statute such as those which have been enacted in at least fifteen other states. Thus, Kansas laboratories which are not covered by hospital licensure, Medicare, or federal interstate transport of specimen requirements can perform tests without any evaluation for the minimum standards of good laboratory practice which are necessary to insure the quality of test results.

Presented by:

Dr. Roger Carlson
February 11, 1988