

AN ACT

D.C. ACT 22-438

IN THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

SEPTEMBER 5, 2018

To establish a new system of recordkeeping for vital records; to repeal the Vital Records Act of 1981; to amend the District of Columbia Administrative Procedure Act of 1976, the Child Fatality Review Committee Establishment Act of 2001, and Title 16 of the District of Columbia Official Code to make conforming amendments; to amend the District of Columbia Health Occupations Revision Act of 1985 to increase the number of members of the Board of Dietetics and Nutrition and to alter its composition; to amend the Animal Control Act of 1979 to allow the importation, possession, display, and trade of captive-bred species of common cage birds, including chickens, and to allow goats and sheep to be temporarily imported into the District and possessed for the purposes of eating grass, milking, and other activities; to amend the Women's Health and Cancer Rights Federal Law Conformity Act of 2000 to harmonize references to contraceptives and to allow high-deductible health plans to charge a co-payment or require cost sharing for the coverage of male contraceptive services; and to amend the District of Columbia Public School Nurse Assignment Act of 1987 to require that any public school currently receiving school nurse services above 20 hours per week as of October 25, 2016, continue at that existing level of service, or the level recommended by the Department of Health's risk-based assessment, whichever is greater, for school year 2018-2019.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, That this act may be cited as the "Vital Records Modernization Amendment Act of 2018".

TITLE I. VITAL RECORDS

Sec. 101. Definitions.

For the purposes of this act, the term:

(1) "Amendment" means a change to a certification item on a vital record after a vital record has been filed.

(2) "Applicant" means an individual who files information necessary to create a vital record, seeks to amend an existing vital record, or seeks to obtain a copy of, or information from, a vital record.

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(3) "Application" means a formal request to an authority for access to vital records, vital event data, and other related documentation. The application requirements for services to be obtained from the Vital Records Division shall be defined by rules issued pursuant to section 129.

(4) "Attending physician" means the physician who was in charge of the decedent's treatment during the decedent's hospitalization at the time of death.

(5) "Certificate" means the document, paper, or electronically formatted vital record, issued by the Registrar that contains all or a part of the information on the original vital record, that, when issued by the Registrar, has the full force and effect of the original vital record.

(6) "Certification" means an attestation to the accuracy of information contained in a vital record or on a vital event report.

(7) "Certificate item" means any item of information that appears on a certificate that is issued to an applicant.

(8) "Certifier" means an individual required to attest to the accuracy of the information submitted in a vital record or on a vital event report.

(9) "Correction" means a change to a non-certification item on a vital record.

(10) "Court" means the Superior Court of the District of Columbia or an equivalent court from another jurisdiction.

(11) "Day" means a calendar day.

(12) "Dead body" means a human body or the parts of a human body that have been pronounced deceased.

(13) "Death certifier" means either the physician providing treatment at the time of death or the medical examiner investigating the cause and manner of death.

(14) "Department" means the Department of Health.

(15) "Designated representative" means an agent identified in a written and witnessed statement signed by the registrant or a qualified applicant to act on the registrant's or applicant's behalf.

(16) "Disclose" or "disclosure" means to make available or make known personally identifiable information contained in a vital record, by any means of communication.

(17) "Disinter" or "disinterment" means the act of removing a dead body from the place of interment.

(18) "Domestic partner" means an individual who has registered either in accordance with section 3(a) of the Health Care Benefits Expansion Act of 1992, effective June 11, 1992 (D.C. Law 9-114; D.C. Official Code § 32-702(a)) ("Act"), or in another jurisdiction that recognizes a substantially similar relationship pursuant to section 3(i) of the Act. The term "domestic partner" shall not include a domestic partner who is the parent, grandparent, sibling, child, grandchild, niece, nephew, aunt, or uncle of a woman who gives birth to a child.