

SENATE BILL 997

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4lr2395

By: **Senator Klausmeier**

Introduced and read first time: February 2, 2024

Assigned to: Finance

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Health – Vital Records – Electronic Filing and Storage**

3 FOR the purpose of altering the date by which the Secretary of Health is required to
4 establish a process by which death certificates can be filed electronically and
5 requiring that the process allow all vital records to be filed electronically; requiring
6 the Secretary to store vital records in a searchable electronic database; and generally
7 relating to electronic filing and storage of vital records.

8 BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,

9 Article – Health – General

10 Section 4–201(a) and (u)

11 Annotated Code of Maryland

12 (2023 Replacement Volume)

13 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,

14 Article – Health – General

15 Section 4–203

16 Annotated Code of Maryland

17 (2023 Replacement Volume)

18 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND,

19 That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

20 **Article – Health – General**

21 4–201.

22 (a) In this subtitle the following words have the meanings indicated.

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1 (u) "Vital record" means a certificate or report of birth, death, fetal death,
2 marriage, divorce, dissolution or annulment of marriage, adoption, or adjudication of
3 paternity that is required by law to be filed with the Secretary.

4 4-203.

5 (a) The Secretary is charged with administering efficiently and uniformly this
6 subtitle throughout this State.

7 (b) (1) The Secretary shall:

8 (i) Establish appropriate methods and the necessary forms for
9 accurate registration of vital records;

10 (ii) On or before January 1, [2015] **2028**, establish a process by
11 which [death certificates] **VITAL RECORDS** can be filed electronically; [and]

12 (iii) Educate physicians, physician assistants, and nurse
13 practitioners regarding the process by which [death certificates] **VITAL RECORDS** can be
14 filed electronically; **AND**

15 **(IV) STORE VITAL RECORDS IN A SEARCHABLE ELECTRONIC**
16 **DATABASE.**

17 (2) The forms shall provide for the information that the Secretary needs for
18 proper registration and use of these vital records.

19 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
20 October 1, 2024.