

CHAPTER 257

(House Bill 217)

AN ACT concerning

Vital Records – Copies to County Registrars of Vital Records

FOR the purpose of authorizing the Secretary of Health and Mental Hygiene to provide a copy of an original birth certificate to the registrar for vital records of a county or Baltimore City where the birth took place; requiring the Secretary of the Department, under certain circumstances, to provide a copy of the original birth, ~~health~~ *death*, or fetal death certificate to the registrar in the county in which the subject of the certificate resides or resided; authorizing county health departments to use birth, death, and fetal death certificates to carry out public health functions; and generally relating to vital records.

BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
Article – Health – General
Section 4–204
Annotated Code of Maryland
(2005 Replacement Volume and 2007 Supplement)

SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND, That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

Article – Health – General

4–204.

(a) The Secretary shall collect, index, and safeguard from fire, loss, or damage each certificate of birth, death, and fetal death.

(b) After registration of a completed **BIRTH**, [~~death~~] **DEATH**, or fetal death certificate, the Secretary shall [~~send~~] **PROVIDE** a copy of the original certificate to the county registrar for the county where the event occurred[. The copy may be photographic or electronic or produced by other means as prescribed by the Secretary] **AND THE COUNTY REGISTRAR WHERE THE SUBJECT OF THE CERTIFICATE RESIDES OR RESIDED IF THE COUNTY OF RESIDENCE IS DIFFERENT FROM THE COUNTY WHERE THE EVENT OCCURRED.**

(c) **A COPY OF A CERTIFICATE PROVIDED TO A COUNTY REGISTRAR UNDER THIS SECTION MAY BE USED BY THE COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT TO CARRY OUT PUBLIC HEALTH FUNCTIONS.**

(D) A COPY OF A CERTIFICATE PROVIDED UNDER THIS SECTION MAY BE PHOTOGRAPHIC OR ELECTRONIC OR PRODUCED BY OTHER MEANS AS PRESCRIBED BY THE SECRETARY.

SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect October 1, 2008.

Approved by the Governor, April 24, 2008.