

# HOUSE BILL 900

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2lr2349

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By: **Delegates McKay and Kipke**

Introduced and read first time: February 7, 2022

Assigned to: Health and Government Operations

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Committee Report: Favorable

House action: Adopted

Read second time: March 11, 2022

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## CHAPTER \_\_\_\_\_

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Death Certificates – Fees – First Responders Killed in the Line of Duty**

3 FOR the purpose of prohibiting the Maryland Department of Health and local health  
4 departments from collecting fees for certified or abridged copies of death certificates  
5 for first responders killed in the line of duty if the copy is provided to the first  
6 responder's surviving spouse or child for a certain purpose; and generally relating to  
7 fees for death certificates.

8 BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,  
9 Article – Health – General  
10 Section 4–217(a)(1) and 18–213.2(a)(1) and (7)  
11 Annotated Code of Maryland  
12 (2019 Replacement Volume and 2021 Supplement)

13 BY adding to  
14 Article – Health – General  
15 Section 4–217(c)(6)(iii)  
16 Annotated Code of Maryland  
17 (2019 Replacement Volume and 2021 Supplement)

18 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,  
19 Article – Health – General  
20 Section 4–217(d)  
21 Annotated Code of Maryland  
22 (2019 Replacement Volume and 2021 Supplement)

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**EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.**

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.

Underlining indicates amendments to bill.

~~Strike out~~ indicates matter stricken from the bill by amendment or deleted from the law by amendment.



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

3 **Article – Health – General**

4 4–217.

5 (a) (1) Except as provided in subsection (b) of this section, the Secretary shall  
6 provide, on request, any person authorized by regulations adopted under this subtitle with  
7 a certified or abridged copy of a birth, death, or fetal death certificate registered under this  
8 subtitle or of the certificate of a marriage performed after June 1, 1951.

9 (c) (6) **(III) THE DEPARTMENT MAY NOT COLLECT A FEE FOR A**  
10 **CERTIFIED OR ABRIDGED COPY OF A DEATH CERTIFICATE OF A FIRST RESPONDER,**  
11 **AS DEFINED IN § 18–213.2 OF THIS ARTICLE, KILLED IN THE LINE OF DUTY, IF THE**  
12 **COPY IS ISSUED TO A SURVIVING SPOUSE OR CHILD OF THE FIRST RESPONDER AND**  
13 **WILL BE USED IN CONNECTION WITH A CLAIM FOR A DEPENDENT OR BENEFICIARY**  
14 **OF THE FIRST RESPONDER.**

15 (d) (1) **(I) [Any] EXCEPT AS PROVIDED IN SUBPARAGRAPH (II) OF THIS**  
16 **PARAGRAPH, ANY** local health department may set and collect a fee for processing and  
17 issuing a death certificate that covers the administrative costs of providing this service.

18 **(II) A LOCAL HEALTH DEPARTMENT MAY NOT COLLECT A FEE**  
19 **FOR PROCESSING AND ISSUING A CERTIFIED OR ABRIDGED COPY OF A DEATH**  
20 **CERTIFICATE OF A FIRST RESPONDER, AS DEFINED IN § 18–213.2 OF THIS ARTICLE,**  
21 **KILLED IN THE LINE OF DUTY, IF THE COPY IS ISSUED TO A SURVIVING SPOUSE OR**  
22 **CHILD OF THE FIRST RESPONDER AND WILL BE USED IN CONNECTION WITH A CLAIM**  
23 **FOR A DEPENDENT OR BENEFICIARY OF THE FIRST RESPONDER.**

24 (2) The fee set by the local health department for processing and issuing a  
25 death certificate under this subsection may not exceed the actual costs to the local health  
26 department for processing and issuing a death certificate.

27 18–213.2.

28 (a) (1) In this section the following words have the meanings indicated.

29 (7) “First responder” means a:

30 (i) Firefighter;

31 (ii) Emergency medical technician;

32 (iii) Rescue squad member;

- 1 (iv) Law enforcement officer;
- 2 (v) Correctional officer; or
- 3 (vi) Sworn member of the State Fire Marshal's office.

4 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect  
5 October 1, 2022.

Approved:

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Governor.

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Speaker of the House of Delegates.

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President of the Senate.