

TOWN OF BRISTOL, RHODE ISLAND

RESOLUTION 2023-__

**A RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF LEGISLATION RELATING TO THE HEALTH AND SAFETY
OF VITAL RECORDS**

WHEREAS, vital records (births, deaths, and marriages) tell the story of the people of Rhode Island and their families; but they also tell the stories of the cities and towns in which they lived and the state of Rhode Island as a whole; and

WHEREAS, easy access to those records is essential for the people who need them in their everyday lives, and also to ensure that the histories of those families, our cities and towns, and the state are not lost to posterity; and

WHEREAS, over the years access has been provided by the state, in conjunction with the cities and towns; and

WHEREAS, new technology being implemented to make access easier may have the unintended consequence in one sense to make access more difficult by preventing cities and towns from issuing certified copies of historic records (death records over 50 years and birth and marriage records over 100 years) and any amended records in the years to come; and

WHEREAS, reducing access would be a disservice to our residents and a hindrance to our ability to maintain the history of our cities and towns; and

WHEREAS, legislation has been introduced in the general assembly, 2023-H 5724 and 2023-S0328, both entitled “AN ACT RELATING TO HEALTH AND SAFETY – VITAL RECORDS,” which requires that the division of vital records to ensure the vital records are accessible to the local registrars and grant local registrars the authority to issue certified copies of certificates and records prior to the records being transferred to the state archives; and

WHEREAS, the Bristol Town Council believes that this legislation is in the best interest of the Town of Bristol.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, THAT THE BRISTOL TOWN COUNCIL, DOES HEREBY SUPPORT 2023-H 5724 AND 2023-S0328, BOTH ENTITLED “AN ACT RELATING TO HEALTH AND SAFETY – VITAL RECORDS,” AND URGES THE BRISTOL DELEGATION TO THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY TO WORK DILIGENTLY FOR ITS PASSAGE.

ATTEST:



Melissa Cordeiro, Town Clerk

