



# TOWN OF EXETER, RI

## TOWN COUNCIL

Daniel W. Patterson, President  
Michael A. Lefebvre, Vice President  
Diane Bampton Allen  
Olivia DeFrancesco  
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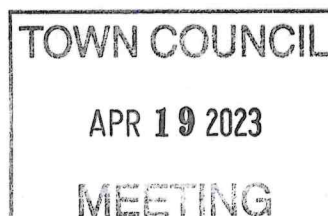
## STATE OF RHODE ISLAND TOWN OF EXETER

### RESOLUTION NO. 2023-04

### RESOLUTION OF THE TOWN OF EXETER IN SUPPORT OF 2023-H 5724 AND 2023-S 0328 -- AN ACT RELATING TO HEALTH AND SAFETY – VITAL RECORDS

2023 APR 12 PM 2:51  
TOWN CLERK'S OFFICE  
BRISTOL, RHODE ISLAND

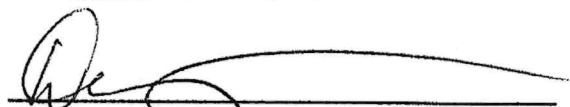
- WHEREAS,** vital records (births, deaths, and marriages) tell the story of the people of Rhode Island and their families; but, they also tell the stories of the cities and towns in which they lived and the State of Rhode Island as a whole; and
- WHEREAS,** easy access to those records is essential 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; 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 that vital records are accessible to the local registrars, grant local registrars the authority to issue certified copies of certificates and records prior to the records being transferred to the state archives; and

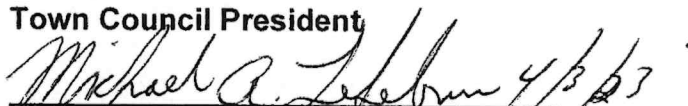


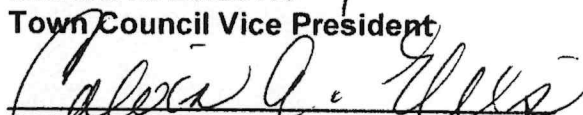
**WHEREAS,** the Town Council of the Town of Exeter believes that this legislation is in the best interest of the Town of Exeter.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED,** that the Exeter Town Council, does hereby support 2023-H 5724 and 2023-S 0328, both entitled "An Act Relating to Health and Safety – Vital Records," and urges the Exeter delegation to the General Assembly to work diligently for its passage.

Approved by vote of the Exeter Town Council on this 3<sup>rd</sup> day of April, 2023.

  
Daniel W. Patterson  
Town Council President

  
Michael A. Lefebvre  
Town Council Vice President

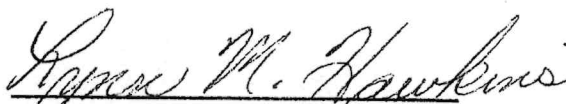
  
Calvin A. Ellis  
Town Council Member

  
Olivia DeFrancesco  
Town Council Member

  
Diane Bampton Allen  
Town Council Member

In witness hereof, I hereby set my hand and the official seal of the Town of Exeter this 3<sup>rd</sup> day of April, 2023.



  
Lynn M. Hawkins, CMC  
Town Clerk

Introduced by: Daniel W. Patterson, Town Council President, April 3, 2023.  
Approved by: Exeter Town Council, April 3, 2023

2023 -- H 5724

LC001258

STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2023

A N A C T

RELATING TO HEALTH AND SAFETY -- VITAL RECORDS

Introduced By: Representative Terri-Denise Cortvriend

Date Introduced: February 17, 2023

Referred To: House State Government & Elections

It is enacted by the General Assembly as follows:

1       SECTION 1. Sections 23-3-5.1 and 23-3-24 of the General Laws in Chapter 23-3 entitled  
2 "Vital Records" are hereby amended to read as follows:

3       **23-3-5.1. Transfer of public historical documents.**

4       At the end of each calendar year, records of births and marriages which have occurred one  
5 hundred (100) years or more from the date of transfer and deaths which have occurred fifty (50)  
6 years or more from the date of transfer, shall be permanently transferred by the state registrar of  
7 vital records to the custody of the state archives under control of the secretary of state who may  
8 promulgate rules and regulations pertaining to these public historical documents. Prior to  
9 transferring the records to the state archives, the division of vital records shall ensure that the  
10 records are accessible to the local registrars for the purpose of issuance of accurate records to the  
11 public as authorized by law.

12       **23-3-24. Copies of data from vital records.**

13       In accordance with § 23-3-23 and the regulations adopted pursuant to that section:

14       (1) The state registrar of vital records shall upon request issue a certified copy of any  
15 certificate or record in his or her custody or a part thereof. Each copy issued shall show the date of  
16 registration; and copies issued from records marked "delayed," "amended," or "court order" shall  
17 be similarly marked and show the effective date. Any copies issued of a "certificate of foreign  
18 birth" shall indicate this fact and show the actual place of birth.

19       (2) ~~The custodian of permanent local records~~ local registrars shall upon request issue a

1 certified copy of any certificate or record in his or her custody or to which he or she has access only  
2 in a form that shall be prescribed by the state director of health.

3 (3) A certified copy of a certificate or any part thereof, issued in accordance with  
4 subdivision (1) or (2) of this section, shall be considered for all purposes the same as the original,  
5 and shall be prima facie evidence of the facts stated in the certificate, provided that the evidentiary  
6 value of a certificate or record filed more than one year after the event, or a record which has been  
7 amended, or a "certificate of foreign birth," shall be determined by the judicial or administrative  
8 body or official before whom the certificate is offered as evidence.

9 (4) The National Office of Vital Statistics may be furnished copies or data that it may  
10 require for national statistics; provided, that the state shall be reimbursed for the cost of furnishing  
11 the data; and provided further, that the data shall not be used for other than statistical purposes by  
12 the National Office of Vital Records unless so authorized by the state registrar of vital records.

13 (5) Federal, state, local, and other public or private agencies may, upon request, be  
14 furnished copies or data for statistical purposes upon terms or conditions that may be prescribed by  
15 the state director of health.

16 (6) No person shall prepare or issue any certificate which purports to be an original certified  
17 copy, or copy of a certificate of birth, death, or fetal death, except as authorized in this chapter or  
18 regulations adopted under this chapter.

19 SECTION 2. This act shall take effect upon passage.

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LC001258

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EXPLANATION  
BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL  
OF  
A N A C T  
RELATING TO HEALTH AND SAFETY -- VITAL RECORDS

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1        This act would require the division of vital records to ensure that the records are accessible  
2 to the local registrars and grant local registrars the authority to issue certified copies of certificates  
3 and records.

4        This act would take effect upon passage.

LC001258