WEST VIRGINIA LEGISLATURE
REGULAR SESSION, 1959

ENROLLED

SENATE BILL NO. 315

(By Mr. Moats)

PASSED March 11, 1959

In Effect 90 days from Passage

Filed in Office of the Secretary of State
of West Virginia MAR 20 1959
JOE F. BURDETT
SECRETARY OF STATE
ENROLLED

Senate Bill No. 315
(By Mr. Moats)

[Passed March 11, 1959; in effect ninety days from passage.]

AN ACT to amend and reenact section nineteen, article five, chapter sixteen of the code of West Virginia, one thousand nine hundred thirty-one, as amended, relating to certain duties of the state registrar of vital statistics and county registers of births and deaths.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of West Virginia:

That section nineteen, article five, chapter sixteen of the code of West Virginia, one thousand nine hundred thirty-one, as amended, be amended and reenacted to read as follows:

Section 19. State Registrar; Duties; State and County Registers of Births and Deaths; Classification of Diseases; Private Records Filed with State Registrar; Transcripts.—
The state registrar shall prepare, print and supply to all registrars all blanks and forms necessary for registering, recording and preserving the state records, and shall prepare and issue such detailed instructions as may be required to procure the uniform observance of its provisions and the maintenance of a perfect system of registration; and no other blanks shall be used than those supplied by the state registrar. He shall carefully examine the certificates received monthly from the local registrars, and if any such are incomplete or unsatisfactory, he shall require such further information to be supplied as may be necessary to make the record complete and satisfactory. All physicians, midwives, informants, or undertakers, and other persons having knowledge of the facts, are hereby required to supply, upon a form provided by the state registrar or upon the original certificate, such information as they may possess regarding any birth or death, upon demand of the state registrar, in person, by mail, or through the local registrar: Provided, That no certificate of birth or death, after its acceptance for registration by the local registrar, and no other record made
in pursuance of this article, shall be altered or changed in any respect otherwise than by amendments properly dated, signed and witnessed. The state registrar shall further arrange, bind and permanently preserve the certificates in a systematic manner, and shall compile therefrom a record of such births and deaths and shall enter the same in a systematic and orderly way in a well-bound register of births and a well-bound register of deaths, respectively, for the state, and shall prepare and maintain a comprehensive and continuous index of all births and deaths registered. The index shall be arranged alphabetically, in the case of deaths, by the names of decedents, and in the case of births, by the names of the children, where stated, as well as of the fathers and mothers, subject, however, to the provisions of sections seven and fourteen of this article. He shall inform all registrars what diseases are to be considered infectious or communicable and dangerous to the public health, as decided by the state public health council, in order that when deaths occur from such diseases proper precautions may be taken to prevent their spread.
In order that each county may have a complete record
of the births and deaths occurring in said county, the state
registrar shall transmit each month, to the several county
clers, the copies of the certificates of all births and deaths
occurring in their respective counties furnished by the lo-
cal registrars, and if any person shall die in a county other
than that county within the state in which such person
last resided prior to death, then the state registrar shall,
if possible, also furnish a copy of such death certificate to
the clerk of the county court of the county wherein such
person last resided, from which copies the clerk shall com-
pile a record of such births and deaths and shall enter the
same in a systematic and orderly way in a well-bound
register of births and a well-bound register of deaths,
respectively, for that county, which said registers shall
be public records: Provided, That such copies and regis-
ters shall not state that any child was either legitimate
or illegitimate. The form of said registers of births and
deaths shall be prescribed by the state registrar of vital
statistics.

If any cemetery company or association, or any church
or historical society or association, or any other company, society, or association, or any individual, is in possession of any record of births or deaths which may be of value in establishing the genealogy of any resident of this state, such company, society, association or individual may file such record, or a duly authenticated transcript thereof, with the state registrar, and it shall be the duty of the state registrar to preserve such record or transcript and to make a record and index thereof in such form as to facilitate the finding of any information contained therein. Such record and index shall be open to inspection by the public, subject to such reasonable conditions as the state registrar may prescribe. If any person desires a transcript of any such record, the state registrar shall furnish the same upon application, together with a certificate that it is a true copy of such record, as filed in his office, and for his services in so furnishing such transcript and certificate he shall be entitled to a fee of fifty cents per hour or fraction of an hour necessarily consumed in making such transcript, and to a fee of twenty-five cents for the certificate, which fees shall be paid by the applicant.
The Joint Committee on Enrolled Bills hereby certifies that the foregoing bill is correctly enrolled.

Chairman Senate Committee

Eudora Andrews

Chairman House Committee

Originated in the Senate.

Takes effect 90 days from passage.

Clerk of the Senate

O. A. Blankenship

Clerk of the House of Delegates

Ralph J. Beam

President of the Senate

B. R. Fauley

Speaker House of Delegates

The within approved this the 20th day of March, 1959.

Governor