

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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EIGHTY-SECOND LEGISLATURE

H. P. No. 726

H. D. No. 176

House of Representatives, Feb. 17, 1925.

Referred to Committee on Public Health and 500 copies ordered printed. Sent up for concurrence.

CLYDE R. CHAPMAN, Clerk.

Presented by Mr. Martin of Augusta.

STATE OF MAINE

IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD ONE THOUSAND NINE
HUNDRED AND TWENTY-FIVE

AN ACT to Provide for the Registration of All Births and
Deaths in the State of Maine.

Be it enacted by the People of the State of Maine, as follows:

Section 1. That the State Department of Health shall
2 have charge of the registration of births and deaths; shall
3 prepare the necessary instructions, forms and blanks for
4 obtaining and preserving such records and shall procure the
5 faithful registration of the same in each primary registra-
6 tion district as constituted in section three of this act, and
7 in the central bureau of vital statistics at the capitol of the
8 state. The said board shall be charged with the uniform
9 and thorough enforcement of the law throughout the state,

10 and shall from time to time promulgate any additional rules
11 or regulations that may be necessary for this purpose.

Sect. 2. That the commissioner of the state department
2 of health shall have general supervision over the central
3 bureau of vital statistics, which is hereby authorized to be
4 established by said department, and shall be under the imme-
5 diate direction of the state registrar of vital statistics. The
6 state commissioner of health shall be the state registrar of
7 vital statistics and shall receive an annual salary of one
8 thousand dollars as state registrar. The state registrar shall
9 provide for such clerical and other assistants as may be
10 necessary for the purposes of this act, who shall serve dur-
11 ing the pleasure of the registrar, and shall fix the com-
12 pensation of persons thus employed within the amount ap-
13 propriated therefor by the legislature. The state superin-
14 tendent of buildings shall provide for the bureau of vital
15 statistics in or near the state capitol at Augusta, suitable
16 offices, which shall be properly equipped with fireproof vault
17 and filing cases for the permanent and safe preservation of
18 all official records made heretofore or hereafter and re-
19 turned under this act.

Sect. 3. That for the purposes of this act the state shall
2 be divided into registration districts as follows: Each city,
3 each incorporated town, and each organized plantation shall
4 constitute a primary registration district; provided, that the
5 state department of health may combine two or more pri-
6 mary registration districts when necessary to facilitate reg-
7 istration.

Sect. 4. That within ninety days after the taking effect of
2 this act, or as soon thereafter as possible, the state depart-
3 ment of health shall appoint a local registrar of vital sta-
4 tistics for each registration district in the state. The term
5 of office of each local registrar so appointed shall be four
6 years and until his successor has qualified, unless such of-
7 fice shall sooner become vacant by death, disqualification,
8 operation of law, or other causes. Any vacancy occurring
9 in the office of local registrar of vital statistics shall be filled
10 for the unexpired term by the state registrar. At least ten
11 days before the expiration of the term of office of any such
12 local registrar, his successor shall be appointed by the state
13 registrar.

Any local registrar who, in the judgment of the state reg-
2 istrar, fails or neglects to discharge efficiently the duties
3 of his office as set forth in this act, or to make prompt and
4 complete returns of births and deaths as required thereby,
5 shall be forthwith removed by the state registrar, and such
6 other penalties may be imposed as are provided under sec-
7 tion twenty-two of this act.

Each local registrar shall, immediately upon his accept-
2 ance of appointment as such, appoint a deputy, whose duty
3 it shall be to act in his stead in case of his absence or dis-
4 ability; and such deputy shall in writing accept such ap-
5 pointment, and be subject to all rules and regulations gov-
6 erning local registrars. And when it appears necessary for

7 the convenience of the people in any rural district, the local
8 registrar, to appoint one or more suitable persons to act as
9 sub-registrars, who shall be authorized to receive certificates
10 and to issue burial or removal permits in and for such por-
11 tions of the district as may be designated; and each sub-
12 registrar shall note, on each certificate, over his signature,
13 the date of filing, and shall forward all certificates to the
14 local registrar of the district within ten days, and in all
15 cases before the fifth day of the following month; provided,
16 that each subregistrar shall be subject to the supervision
17 and control of the state registrar, and may be by him re-
18 moved for neglect or failure to perform his duty in accord-
19 ance with the provisions of this act or the rules and reg-
20 ulations of the state registrar, and shall be subject to the
21 same penalties for neglect of duty as the local registrar.

No licensed embalmer or licensed undertaker and no person
2 employed in the business of embalming or undertaking shall
3 be eligible for appointment as a local registrar of vital sta-
4 tistics, deputy registrar or subregistrar. A local health
5 officer shall be eligible for appointment as registrar of vital
6 statistics, and if so appointed, and if acting as full-time
7 health officer, or receiving a salary equivalent to not less
8 than fifteen cents per year, per inhabitant, of such registra-
9 tion district, he shall serve as local registrar of vital statistics
10 without additional remuneration therefor.

Sect. 5. That the body of any person whose death occurs
2 in this state, or which shall be found dead therein, shall not

3 be interred, deposited in a vault or tomb, cremated or other-
4 wise disposed of, or removed from or into any registration
5 district, or be temporarily held pending further disposition
6 more than seventy-two hours after death, unless a permit
7 for burial, removal, or other disposition thereof shall have
8 been properly issued by the local registrar of the registra-
9 tion district in which the death occurred or the body was
10 found. And no such burial or removal permit shall be
11 issued by any registrar or his deputy until, wherever prac-
12 ticable, a complete and satisfactory certificate of death has
13 been filed with him as hereinafter provided; provided, that
14 when a dead body is transported from outside the state into
15 a registration district in Maine for burial, the transit or
16 removal permit, issued in accordance with the law and health
17 regulations of the place where the death occurred, shall be
18 accepted by the local registrar or his deputy of the district
19 into which the body has been transported for burial or for
20 other disposition, as a basis upon which he may issue a local
21 burial permit; he shall note upon the face of the burial per-
22 mit the fact that it was a body shipped in for interment,
23 and give the actual place of death; and no local registrar
24 shall receive any fee for the issuance of burial or removal
25 permits under this act other than the compensation provided
26 in section twenty.

Sect. 6. That a stillborn child shall be registered as a
2 birth and also as a death, and separate certificates of both
3 the birth and the death shall be filed with the local registrar,

4 in the usual form and manner, the certificate of birth to
5 contain in place of the name of the child, the word "still-
6 birth"; provided, that a certificate of birth and a certificate
7 of death shall not be required for a child that has not ad-
8 vanced to the fifth month of uterogestation. The medical
9 certificate of the cause of death shall be signed by the at-
10 tending physician, if any, and shall state the cause of death
11 as "stillborn," with the cause of the stillbirth, if known
12 whether a premature birth, and, if born prematurely, the
13 period of uterogestation, in months, if known; and a burial
14 or removal permit of the prescribed form shall be required.
15 Midwives shall not sign certificates of death for stillborn
16 children; but such cases, and stillbirths occurring without
17 attendance of either physician or midwife, shall be treated
18 as deaths without medical attendance, as provided for in sec-
19 tion eight of this act.

Sect. 7. That the certificate of death shall contain the fol-
2 lowing items, which are hereby declared necessary for the
3 legal, social, and sanitary purposes subserved by registra-
4 tion records:

(1) Place of death, including state, county, township,
2 village or city. If in a city, the ward, street, and house
3 number; if in a hospital or other institution, the name of the
4 same to be given instead of the street and house number.
5 If in an industrial camp, the name of the camp to be given.

(2) Full name of decedent. If an unnamed child, the
2 surname preceded by "Unnamed."

- (3) Sex.
- (4) Color or race—as white, black, mulatto (or other
2 negro descent), Indian, Chinese, Japanese, or other.
- (5) Conjugal condition—as single, married, widowed or
2 divorced.
- (6) Date of birth, including the year, month, and day.
- (7) Age, in years, months and days. If less than one
2 day, the hours or minutes.
- (8) Occupation. The occupation to be reported of any
2 person, male or female, who had any remunerative employ-
3 ment, with the statement of (a) trade, profession or par-
4 ticular kind of work; (b) general nature of industry, busi-
5 ness or establishment in which employed (or employer).
- (9) Birthplace; at least state or foreign country, if known.
- (10) Name of father.
- (11) Birthplace of father; at least state or foreign coun-
2 try, if known.
- (12) Maiden name of mother.
- (13) Birthplace of mother; at least state or foreign coun-
2 try, if known.
- (14) Signature and address of informant.
- (15) Official signature of registrar, with the date when
2 certificate was filed, and registered number.
- (16) Date of death, year, month, and day.
- (17) Certification as to medical attendance on decedent,
2 fact and time of death, time last seen alive, and the cause
3 of death, with contributory (secondary) cause of complica-

tion, if any, and duration of each, and whether attributed to dangerous or insanitary conditions of employment; signature and address of physician or official making the medical certificate.

(18) Length of residence (for inmates of hospitals and other institutions; transients or recent residents) at place of death and in the state, together with the place where disease was contracted, if not at place of death, and former or usual residence.

(19) Place of burial or removal; date of burial.

(20) Signature and address of undertaker or person acting as such.

The personal and statistical particulars (Items 1 to 13) shall be authenticated by the signature of the informant, who may be any competent person acquainted with the facts.

The statement of facts relating to the disposition of the body shall be signed by the undertaker or person acting as such.

The medical certificate shall be made and signed by the physician, if any, last in attendance on the deceased, who shall specify the time in attendance, the time he last saw the deceased alive and the hour of the day at which death occurred. And he shall further state the cause of death, so as to show the course of disease or sequence of causes resulting in the death, giving first the name of the disease causing death (primary cause), and the contributory (secondary) cause, if any, and the duration of each. Indefinite

10 and unsatisfactory terms, denoting only symptoms of dis-
11 ease or conditions resulting from disease, will not be held
12 sufficient for the issuance of a burial or removal permit ;
13 and any certificate containing only such terms, as defined
14 by the state registrar, shall be returned to the physician or
15 person making the medical certificate for correction and
16 more definite statement. Causes of death which may be
17 the result of either disease or violence shall be carefully
18 defined ; and if from violence, the means of injury shall be
19 stated, and whether (probably) accidental, suicidal, or hom-
20 icidal. And for deaths in hospitals, institutions, or of non-
21 residents, the physician shall supply the information re-
22 quired under this head (Item 18), if he is able to do so,
23 and may state where, in his opinion, the disease was con-
24 tracted.

Sect. 8. That in case of any death occurring without medi-
2 cal attendance, it shall be the duty of the undertaker to
3 notify the local registrar of such death, and when so noti-
4 fied the registrar shall, prior to the issuance of the permit,
5 inform the local health officer and refer the case to him
6 for immediate investigation and certification ; provided, that
7 when the local health officer is not a physician, or when
8 there is no such official, and in such cases only, the registrar
9 is authorized to make the certificate and return from the
10 statement of relatives or other persons having adequate
11 knowledge of the facts ; provided, further, that if the reg-
12 istrar has reason to believe that the death may have been

13 due to unlawful act or neglect, he shall then refer the case
14 to the county medical examiner for his investigation and
15 certification. And the county medical examiner whose duty
16 it is to hold an inquest on the body of any deceased person,
17 and to make the certificate of death required for a burial
18 permit, shall state in his certificate the name of the disease
19 causing death, or if from external causes, (1) the means of
20 death; and (2) whether (probably) accidental, suicidal, or
21 homicidal, and shall, in any case, furnish such information
22 as may be required by the state registrar in order properly
23 to classify the death.

Sect. 9. That the undertaker, or person acting as under-
2 taker, shall file the certificate of death with the local reg-
3 istrar of the district in which the death occurred and obtain
4 a burial or removal permit prior to any disposition of the
5 body. He shall obtain the required personal and statistical
6 particulars from the person best qualified to supply them,
7 over the signature and address of his informant. He shall
8 then present the certificate to the attending physician, if
9 any, or to the health officer or county medical examiner, as
10 directed by the local registrar, for the medical certificate of
11 the cause of death and other particulars necessary to com-
12 plete the record, as specified in sections seven and eight.
13 Such certificate of cause of death shall be returned to the
14 undertaker within thirty-six hours after death and he shall
15 then state the facts required relative to the date and place
16 of burial or removal, over his signature and with his ad-

17 dress, and present the completed certificate to the local reg-
18 istrar in order to obtain a permit for burial, removal or
19 other disposition of the body. The undertaker shall deliver
20 the burial permit to the person in charge of the place of
21 burial, before interring or otherwise disposing of the body;
22 or shall attach the removal permit to the box containing the
23 corpse, when shipped by any transportation company; said
24 permit to accompany the corpse to its destination, where,
25 if within the state of Maine, it shall be delivered to the
26 person in charge of the place of burial.

Sect. 10. That if the interment, or other disposition of
2 the body is to be made within the state, the wording of
3 the burial or removal permit may be limited to a statement
4 by the registrar, and over his signature, that a satisfactory
5 certificate of death having been filed with him, as required
6 by law, permission is granted to inter, remove, or dispose
7 otherwise of the body, stating the name, age, sex, cause of
8 death, and other necessary details upon the form prescribed
9 by the state registrar.

Sect. 11. That no person in charge of any premises on
2 which interments are made shall inter or permit the inter-
3 ment or other disposition of any body unless it is accom-
4 panied by a burial, removal or transit permit, as herein pro-
5 vided. And such person shall indorse upon the permit the
6 date of interment, over his signature, and shall return all
7 permits so indorsed to the local registrar of his district with-
8 in ten days from the date of interment and in all cases by

9 the fifth day of the following month. He shall keep a record
10 of all bodies interred or otherwise disposed of on the prem-
11 ises under his charge, in each case stating the name of each
12 deceased person, place of death, date of burial or dispcal,
13 and name and address of the undertaker ; which record shall
14 at all times be open to official inspection ; provided, that the
15 undertaker or person acting as such, when burying a body
16 in a cemetery or burial ground having no person in charge,
17 shall sign the burial or removal permit, giving the date of
18 burial, and shall write across the face of the permit the words
19 "No person in charge," and file the burial or removal permit
20 within ten days, or by the fifth day of the following month
21 with the registrar of the district in which the cemetery is
22 located.

Sect. 12. That the birth of each and every child born in
2 this state shall be registered as hereinafter provided.

Sect. 13. That within ten days after the date of each birth,
2 and in all cases by the fifth day of the following month there
3 shall be filed with the local registrar of the district in which
4 the birth occurred a certificate of such birth, which certifi-
5 cate shall be upon the form adopted by the state department
6 of health with a view to procuring a full and accurate report
7 with respect to each item of information enumerated in
8 section fourteen of this act.

In each case where a physician, midwife, or person acting
2 as midwife, was in attendance upon the birth, it shall be the
3 duty of such physician, midwife, or person acting as mid-

4 wife, to file in accordance herewith the certificate herein
5 contemplated.

In each case where there was no physician, midwife, or
2 person acting as midwife, in attendance upon the birth, it
3 shall be the duty of the father or mother of the child, the
4 householder or owner of the premises where the birth oc-
5 curred, or the manager or superintendent of the public or
6 private institution where the birth occurred, each in the
7 order named, within ten days after the date of such birth,
8 and in all cases by the fifth of the following month, to re-
9 port to the local registrar the fact of such birth. In such
10 case and in case the physician, midwife, or person acting as
11 midwife, in attendance upon the birth, is unable, by dili-
12 gent inquiry, to obtain any item or items of information
13 given in section fourteen of this act, it shall then be the duty
14 of the local registrar to secure from the person so report-
15 ing, or from any other person having the required knowl-
16 edge, such information as will enable him to prepare the
17 certificate of birth, and it shall be the duty of the person
18 reporting the birth or who may be interrogated in relation
19 thereto to answer correctly and to the best of his knowl-
20 edge all questions put to him by the local registrar which
21 may be calculated to elicit any information needed to make
22 a complete record of the birth, and it shall be the duty of
23 the informant as to any statement made in accordance here-
24 with to verify such statement by his signature, when re-
25 quested so to do by the local registrar.

Sect. 14. That the certificate of birth shall contain the following items, which are hereby declared necessary for the legal, social, and sanitary purposes subserved by registration records:

(1) Place of birth, including state, county, township or town, village or city. If in a city, the ward, street, and house number; if in a hospital or other institution, the name of the same to be given, instead of the street and house number.

(2) Full name of child. If the child dies without a name, before the certificate is filed, enter the words "Died unnamed." If the living child has not yet been named at the date of filing certificate of birth, the space for "full name of child" is to be left blank, to be filled out subsequently by a supplemental report, as hereinafter provided.

(3) Sex of child.

(4) Whether a twin, triplet, or other plural birth. A separate certificate shall be required for each child in case of plural births.

(5) For plural births, number of each child in order of birth.

(6) Whether legitimate or illegitimate.

(7) Date of birth, including the year, month and day.

(8) Full name of father.

(9) Residence of father.

(10) Color or race of father.

(11) Age of father at last birthday, in years.

(12) Birthplace of father; at least state or foreign country, if known.

(13) Occupation of father. The occupation to be reported if engaged in any remunerative employment, with the statement of (a) trade, profession, or particular kind of work; (b) general nature of industry, business or establishment in which employed (or employer).

(14) Maiden name of mother.

(15) Residence of mother.

(16) Color or race of mother.

(17) Age of mother at last birthday, in years.

(18) Birthplace of mother; at least state or foreign country, if known.

(19) Occupation of mother. The occupation to be reported if engaged in any remunerative employment, with the statement of (a) trade, profession, or particular kind of work; (b) general nature of industry, business or establishment in which employed (or employer).

(20) Number of children born to this mother, including present birth.

(21) Number of children of this mother living.

(22) The certification of attending physician or midwife as to attendance at birth, including statement of year, month, day (as given in Item 7), and hour of birth, and whether the child was born alive or stillborn. This certification shall be signed by the attending physician or midwife, with date of signature and address; if there is no physician or

7 midwife in attendance, then by the father or mother of the
8 child, householder, owner of the premises, or manager or
9 superintendent of public or private institution where the
10 birth occurred, or other competent person, whose duty it
11 shall be to notify the local registrar of such birth as re-
12 quired by section thirteen of this act.

(23) Exact date of filing in office of local registrar, at-
2 tested by his official signature, and registered number of
3 birth, as hereinafter provided.

Sect. 15. That when any certificate of birth of a living
2 child is presented without the statement of the given name,
3 then the local registrar shall make out and deliver to the
4 parents of the child a special blank for the supplemental
5 report of the given name of the child, which shall be filled
6 out as directed, and returned to the local registrar as soon
7 as the child shall have been named.

Sect. 16. That every physician, midwife, and undertaker
2 shall, without delay, register his or her name, address and
3 occupation with the local registrar of the district in which
4 he or she resides, or may hereafter establish a residence;
5 and shall thereupon be supplied by the local registrar with
6 a copy of this act, together with such rules and regulations
7 as may be prepared by the state registrar relative to its en-
8 forcement. Within thirty days after the close of each cal-
9 endar year each local registrar shall make a return to the
10 state registrar of all physicians, midwives or undertakers
11 who have been registered in his district during the whole

12 or any part of the preceding calendar year; provided, that
13 no fee or other compensation shall be charged by local reg-
14 istrars to physicians, midwives, or undertakers for register-
15 ing their names under this section or making returns thereof
16 to the state registrar.

Sect. 17. The clerk of each town shall, by the tenth of
2 each month, make a certified copy of the record of all deaths
3 and births recorded in the books of said town during the
4 previous month, whenever the deceased person, or the par-
5 ents of the child born were resident in any other town in
6 this state at the time of said death or birth, and shall trans-
7 mit said certified copies to the clerk of the town in which
8 said deceased person or parents were resident at the time
9 of said birth or death, or to which the remains of such de-
10 ceased person have been carried for burial, whenever the
11 same can be ascertained; and the clerk so receiving such
12 certified copies shall record the same in the books kept for
13 recording deaths or births. Such certified copies shall be
14 made upon blanks to be furnished for that purpose by the
15 registrar of vital statistics.

Sect. 18. That the state registrar shall prepare, print, and
2 supply to all registrars all blanks and forms used in regis-
3 tering, recording and preserving the returns, or in other-
4 wise carrying out the purposes of this act; and shall pre-
5 pare and issue such detailed instructions as may be required
6 to procure the uniform observance of its provisions and the
7 maintenance of a perfect system of registration; and no

8 other blanks shall be used than those supplied by the state
9 registrar. He shall carefully examine the certificates re-
10 ceived monthly from the local registrars, and if any such
11 are incomplete or unsatisfactory he shall require such fur-
12 ther information to be supplied as may be necessary to make
13 the record complete and satisfactory. And all physicians,
14 midwives, informants, or undertakers, and all other per-
15 sons having knowledge of the facts, are hereby required
16 to supply, upon a form provided by the state registrar or
17 upon the original certificate, such information as they may
18 possess regarding any birth or death upon demand of the
19 state registrar, in person, by mail, through the local reg-
20 istrar, or any representative of the state department of
21 health; provided, that no certificate of birth or death, after
22 its acceptance for registration by the local registrar, and
23 no other record made in pursuance of this act, shall be al-
24 tered or changed in any respect otherwise than by amend-
25 ments properly dated, signed, and witnessed. The state
26 registrar shall permanently preserve the certificates in a
27 systematic manner, and shall prepare and maintain a com-
28 prehensive and continuous card index of all births and
29 deaths registered; said index to be arranged alphabetically,
30 in the case of deaths, by the names of decedents, and in the
31 case of births, by the names of fathers and mothers. He
32 shall inform all registrars what diseases are to be consid-
33 ered infectious, contagious, or communicable and danger-
34 ous to the public health, as decided by the state department

35 of health, in order that when deaths occur from such dis-
36 eases proper precautions may be taken to prevent their
37 spread. If any cemetery company or association, or any
38 church or historical society or association, or any other
39 company, society or association, or any individual, is in
40 possession of any record of births or deaths which may be
41 of value in establishing the genealogy of any resident of
42 this state, such company, society, association or individual,
43 may file such record or a duly authenticated transcript there-
44 of with the state registrar, and it shall be the duty of the
45 state registrar to preserve such record or transcript and
46 to make a record and index thereof in such form as to
47 facilitate the finding of any information contained therein.
48 Such records and indices shall be open to inspection by
49 the public, subject to such reasonable conditions as the
50 state registrar may prescribe. If any person desires a
51 transcript of any record filed in accordance herewith, the
52 state registrar shall furnish the same upon application, to-
53 gether with a certificate that it is a true copy of such record,
54 as filed in his office, and for his services in so furnishing
55 such transcript and certificate he shall be entitled to a fee
56 of (fifty cents per hour or fraction of an hour necessarily
57 consumed in making such transcript) and to a fee of fifty
58 cents for the certificate, which fees shall be paid by the
59 applicant. No records of vital statistics shall be available
60 for commercial or advertising purposes.

Sect. 19. That each local registrar shall supply blank

2 forms of certificates to such persons as require them. Each
3 local registrar shall carefully examine each certificate of
4 birth or death when presented for record in order to ascer-
5 tain whether or not it has been made out in accordance with
6 the provisions of this act and the instructions of the state
7 registrar; and if any certificate of death is incomplete or
8 unsatisfactory, it shall be his duty to call attention to the
9 defects in the return, and to withhold the burial or removal
10 permit until such defects are corrected. All certificates,
11 either of birth or of death, shall be written legibly, in dur-
12 able black ink, and no certificate shall be held to be com-
13 plete and correct that does not supply all of the items of
14 information called for therein, or satisfactorily account for
15 their omission. If the certificate of death is properly exe-
16 cuted and complete, he shall then issue a burial or removal
17 permit to the undertaker; provided, that in case the death
18 occurred from some disease which is held by the state de-
19 partment of health to be infectious, contagious, or com-
20 municable and dangerous to the public health, no permit for
21 the removal or other disposition of the body shall be issued
22 by the registrar, except under such conditions as may be
23 prescribed by the state department of health. If a certifi-
24 cate of birth is incomplete, the local registrar shall immedi-
25 ately notify the informant, and require him to supply the
26 missing items of information if they can be obtained. He
27 shall number consecutively the certificates of birth and death,
28 in two separate series, beginning with number one for the

29 first birth and the first death in each calendar year, and
30 sign his name as registrar in attest of the date of filing in
31 his office. He shall also make a complete and accurate
32 copy of each birth and each death certificate registered by
33 him in a record book approved by the state registrar, to be
34 preserved permanently in his office as the local record, in
35 such manner as directed by the state registrar. And he
36 shall, between the tenth and fifteenth day of each month,
37 transmit to the state registrar all original certificates reg-
38 istered by him for the preceding month. And if no births
39 or no deaths occurred in any month, he shall, on the tenth
40 day of the following month, report that fact to the state
41 registrar, on a blank provided for such purpose.

Sect. 20. That each local registrar shall be paid the sum
2 of twenty-five cents for each birth certificate and each death
3 certificate properly and completely made out and registered
4 with him, and correctly recorded and promptly returned
5 by him to the state registrar, except as provided in section
6 four, as required by this act. And in case no births or no
7 deaths were registered during any month, the local registrar
8 shall be entitled to be paid the sum of twenty-five cents for
9 each report to that effect, that each physician, midwife or
10 other person reporting birth and every undertaker or li-
11 censed embalmer for reporting each death shall receive a
12 fee of twenty-five cents, but only if such report be made
13 promptly as required by this act. All amounts payable to a
14 local registrar, physicians and others under the provisions

15 of this section shall be paid by the treasurer of the city,
16 town or organized plantation in which the registration dis-
17 trict is located, upon certification by the state registrar. And
18 the state registrar shall annually certify to the treasurers of
19 the several cities, towns and counties the number of births
20 and deaths properly registered, with the names of the local
21 registrars and the amounts due each at the rates fixed herein.

Sect. 21. That the state registrar shall, upon request, sup-
2 ply to any applicant a certified copy of the record of any
3 birth or death registered under provisions of this act, for
4 the making and certification of which he shall be entitled to
5 a fee of fifty cents, to be paid by the applicant. And any
6 such copy of the record of a birth or death, when properly
7 certified by the state registrar, shall be prima facie evidence
8 in all courts and places of the facts therein stated. For any
9 search of the files and records when no certified copy is
10 made, the state registrar shall be entitled to a fee of fifty
11 cents for each hour or fractional part of an hour of time
12 of search, said fee to be paid by the applicant. And the
13 state registrar shall keep a true and correct account of all
14 fees by him received under these provisions, and turn the
15 same over to the state treasurer; provided, that the state
16 registrar shall, upon request of any parent or guardian, sup-
17 ply, without fee, a certificate limited to a statement as to the
18 date of birth of any child when the same shall be necessary
19 for admission to school, or for the purpose of securing em-
20 ployment. And provided further, that the United States

21 Census Bureau may obtain, without expense to the state,
22 transcripts or certified copies of births and deaths without
23 payment of the fees herein prescribed.

Sect. 22. That any person, who for himself or as an offi-
2 cer, agent, or employee of any other person, or of any cor-
3 poration or partnership, (a) shall inter, cremate, or other-
4 wise finally dispose of the dead body of a human being, or
5 permit the same to be done, or shall remove said body from
6 the primary registration district in which the death oc-
7 curred or the body was found, without the authority of a
8 burial or removal permit issued by the local registrar of
9 the district in which the death occurred or in which the
10 body was found; or (b) shall refuse or fail to furnish cor-
11 rectly any information in his possession, or shall furnish
12 false information affecting any certificate or record, re-
13 quired by this act; or (c) shall wilfully alter, otherwise
14 than is provided by section eighteen of this act, or shall
15 falsify any certificate of birth or death, or any record estab-
16 lished by this act; or (d) being required by this act to fill
17 out a certificate of birth or death and file the same with
18 the local registrar, or deliver it, upon request, to any per-
19 son charged with the duty of filing the same, shall fail, neg-
20 lect, or refuse to perform such duty in the manner required
21 by this act; or (e) being a local registrar, deputy registrar,
22 or subregistrar, shall fail, neglect, or refuse to perform his
23 duty as required by this act and by the instructions and di-
24 rection of the state registrar thereunder, shall be deemed

25 guilty of a misdemeanor and upon conviction thereof shall
26 for the first offense be fined not less than ten dollars (\$10.00)
27 nor more than fifty dollars (\$50.00), and for each subse-
28 quent offense not less than twenty-five dollars (\$25.00) nor
29 more than one hundred dollars (\$100.00), or be imprisoned
30 in the county jail not more than sixty days, or be both fined
31 and imprisoned in the discretion of the court.

Sect. 23. That each local registrar is hereby charged with
2 the strict and thorough enforcement of the provisions of
3 this act in his registration district, under the supervision
4 and direction of the state registrar. And he shall make an
5 immediate report to the state registrar of any violation of
6 this law coming to his knowledge, by observation or upon
7 complaint of any person, or otherwise.

The state registrar is hereby charged with the thorough
2 and efficient execution of the provisions of this act in every
3 part of the state, and is hereby granted supervisory power
4 over local registrars, deputy local registrars, and subregis-
5 trars, to the end that all of its requirements shall be uni-
6 formly complied with. The state registrar, either personal-
7 ly or by an accredited representative, shall have authority
8 to investigate cases of irregularity or violation of law, and
9 all registrars shall aid him, upon request, in such investiga-
10 tions. When he shall deem it necessary, he shall report cases
11 of violation of any of the provisions of this act to the prose-
12 cuting attorney of the county, with a statement of the facts
13 and circumstances; and when any such case is reported to

14 him by the state registrar, the prosecuting attorney shall
15 forthwith initiate and promptly follow up the necessary
16 court proceedings against the person or corporation re-
17 sponsible for the alleged violation of law. And upon re-
18 quest of the state registrar, the attorney general shall assist
19 in the enforcement of the provisions of this act.

Sect. 24. That all sections of chapter sixty-four, revised
2 statutes, and their amendments relating to marriage shall
3 come under this act.

Sect. 25. That wherever the term city, town or plantation
2 clerk is used in chapter sixty-four, revised statutes, it shall
3 be understood to mean the local registrar.

Sect. 26. Clerks of courts required to make returns of
2 divorces annually. The clerks of courts for the several
3 counties shall, annually, during the month of February,
4 make returns to the registrar of vital statistics relating to
5 libels for divorce in their respective counties for the calen-
6 dar year next preceding. Such returns shall specify the
7 following details: the number of divorces granted; and the
8 names of the parties, including the maiden name and any
9 other former name of female, if any, when ascertainable;
10 the date of divorce; the cause of divorce and such other
11 data as may be deemed necessary to secure accurate reg-
12 istration.

Sect. 27. That the sum of ten thousand dollars (\$10,-
2 000) be appropriated annually to carry out the provisions
3 of this act.

Sect. 28. All acts and parts of acts inconsistent herewith
2 are hereby repealed.