
By Mr. Burke, a petition (accompanied by bill ,Senate, No. 452) of Edward L. Burke for legislation relative to transferring certain births, marriage and death records to the Secretary of the Commonwealth and extending access to vital records. Government Regulations.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

In the Year One Thousand Nine Hundred and Eighty-three.

AN ACT TRANSFERRING CERTAIN BIRTHS, MARRIAGES AND RECORDS
TO THE SECRETARY OF THE COMMONWEALTH AND EXTENDING PUBLIC
ACCESS TO VITAL RECORDS.

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General
Court assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:*

1 SECTION 1. The Commissioner of Public Health shall transfer
2 to the Secretary of the Commonwealth all the birth records
3 filed from 1841 through 1890, all the marriage records filed
4 in register form from 1841 through 1917, all the death records
5 filed in register form from 1841 through 1903, all the correc-
6 rections to said records filed no later than 1890 pursuant to
7 section 13 of chapter 46 of the General Laws as amended and
8 required to be maintained in said commissioner's office in
9 accordance with chapter 486 of the acts of 1976, and all copies
10 save one of the indexes thereto.

1 SECTION 2. The Secretary of the Commonwealth shall hence-
2 forth be the official custodian of such records and shall be re-
3 sponsible for their preservation, and they shall be maintained
4 as public records in accordance with chapter 66 of the General
5 Laws amended.

1 SECTION 3. Section 2A of chapter 46 of the General Laws as
2 most recently amended by section 4 of chapter 486 of the acts
3 of 1976 is hereby amended by striking out the phrase "records,
4 returns or notices recorded or filed prior to the first of Janu-
5 ary 1841" in the last sentence and inserting in its place the
6 following phrase: — birth records, returns or notices, and cor-

7 rections thereto pursuant to section 13 of this chapter, filed
8 prior to the first of January, 1891, marriage records, returns
9 or notices filed prior to the first of January 1918, and correc-
10 tions to marriage records, returns or notices pursuant to sec-
11 tion 13 of this chapter filed through the first of January 1891.

1 SECTION 4. The Secretary of the Commonwealth and the
2 Commissioner of Public Health shall each incur the moiety of
3 all necessary expenditures for the transfer of records pursuant
4 to section 1 of this act.

1 SECTION 5. This act shall take effect upon its passage.