

BIRTH CERTIFICATE FEE WAIVER FOR HOMELESS INDIVIDUALS

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House Bill 4853 as introduced
Sponsor: Rep. Tommy Brann
Committee: Appropriations
Complete to 8-30-2019

Analysis available at
<http://www.legislature.mi.gov>

SUMMARY:

House Bill 4853 would amend Part 28 of the Public Health Code regarding Vital Records. The bill would allow for a waiver of the statutory fee of \$34 for the state registrar to provide a copy of a certified vital record to a homeless individual. The individual would first be required to provide written verification of homelessness from a public service agency and photo identification generated by the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development Homeless Management Information System.

The bill would also make a technical revision to language permitting a charter county to adopt a system of vital records fees for a local registrar under the county's jurisdiction, so that the provision would apply to a charter county with a population of 1.5 million or more, rather than 2 million or more. The statutory language applies to Wayne County, and the bill would update the statute to reflect that the current population of the county is below 2 million.

MCL 333.2891

FISCAL IMPACT:

The proposed Fiscal Year 2019-20 DHHS budget includes an additional \$226,000 GF/GP to provide funding that would not be collected because of a waiver of state and local vital records fee for a certified copy of a birth certificate to a homeless individual who is not in possession of a copy. The House-passed and Senate-passed budget bills for DHHS have included this amount, which was originally proposed in the Executive Budget Recommendation. Of these funds, \$136,000 would cover state vital records agency costs, and \$90,000 would be used to reimburse homeless service agencies that pay county vital records fees on behalf of a homeless client.

The forgone state revenue would be \$34 for each state search and copy provided to a homeless individual, and an additional \$12 when the copy is provided in an expedited manner. The Michigan Coalition Against Homelessness indicates that, of agencies completing a 2017 survey of the Coalition,¹ over 5,200 homeless persons were assisted annually with obtaining birth certificates. The proposed appropriation provides funding to

¹ Michigan Coalition Against Homelessness, [Ending Homelessness in Michigan, 2017 Annual Report](#).

cover costs for up to 8,000 birth certificates, primarily through local county clerk offices where locally set fees range from \$10 to \$26.

The bill's proposed change for provisions applying to a charter county of 1.5 million or more rather than 2 million or more would have no fiscal impact.

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■ This analysis was prepared by nonpartisan House Fiscal Agency staff for use by House members in their deliberations, and does not constitute an official statement of legislative intent.