



SENATE BILL 82: Vital Records Integrity Act

2015-2016 General Assembly

Committee:

Introduced by:

Analysis of: S.L. 2015-197

Date:

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SUMMARY: *S.L. 2015-197 adds a new provision to the law governing the duties of registers of deeds in connection with the registration of certain documents purporting to impact official birth records. The new provision requires that the register of deeds mark the first page of the document with a statement that the document is not an official birth record.*

This act became effective on August 5, 2015.

CURRENT LAW:

With respect to birth certificates, under current law, the register of deeds of each county must file copies of birth certificates and keep an index of the certificates. These certificates are open to inspection and examination and copies can be provided to any person upon request. Certified copies of birth certificates are provided under more limited circumstances.

In addition, the register of deeds is authorized to collect a fee of ten dollars for various services related to preparation of papers for registration of birth certificates, amendment of birth records, legitimations, and furnishing certified copies of birth certificates. The fee is twenty dollars for preparation of papers for registration in the same county with one certified copy.

BILL ANALYSIS:

Session Law 2015-197 creates a new G.S. 161-14.02, requiring that prior to recording certain documents or instruments that purport to impact an official birth record, the register of deeds must mark the first page of the document or instrument with the following statement:

"THIS DOCUMENT IS NOT AN OFFICIAL BIRTH RECORD."

This requirement applies only to documents or instruments that are not a birth registration or birth certificate, an amendment of a birth certificate, or a certificate of identification, and does not apply to a document or instrument attached to real estate documents as an exhibit.

EFFECTIVE DATE: This act became effective when the Governor signed it into law on August 5, 2015.

