



SENATE BILL 503: A More Efficient Office of Vital Records.

2025-2026 General Assembly

Committee:	Senate State and Local Government. If favorable, re-refer to Health Care. If favorable, re-refer to Rules and Operations of the Senate	Date:	April 1, 2025
Introduced by:	Sens. McInnis, Sawyer, Lazzara	Prepared by:	Karyl Smith
Analysis of:	First Edition		Committee Co-Counsel

OVERVIEW: Senate Bill 503 would do the following:

- *Establish a deadline for processing birth and death certificate amendment requests.*
- *Prohibit Office of Vital Records employees from teleworking, except as necessary during declared emergencies.*

CURRENT LAW & BILL ANALYSIS:

Birth and Death Certificate Amendment Request Deadline

Currently, G.S. 130A-118 sets out the following requirements for amending birth and death certificates:

- The State Registrar must make a new birth certificate under certain circumstances.
- The State Registrar must issue a new birth certificate to reflect a surname change when a child is legitimated.
- The applicant of an accepted birth or death certificate amendment and the applicant of a new birth certificate must pay the State Registrar a fee not to exceed \$15.00.
- When a new birth certificate is made, the State Registrar must substitute a new certificate for the birth certificate on file and forward a copy of the new certificate to the register of deeds of the county of birth.
 - The copy of the birth certificate on file with the register of deeds, if any, must be forwarded to the State Registrar within five days.
 - The State Registrar must place the original birth certificate, the copy forwarded by the register of deeds, and all papers relating to the original birth certificate under seal.
 - When a certified copy of the birth certificate is issued, it must be a copy of the new birth certificate, except when an order of a court of competent jurisdiction requires the issuance of a copy of the original birth certificate.

Section 1(a) of the bill would amend G.S. 130A-118 by requiring the Office of Vital Records and each local register of deeds office to process birth or death certificate amendment requests within 30 calendar days after the date the office receives (i) the appropriate completed application, (ii) any required proof, and (iii) payment of any applicable fee for the amendment.

Section 1(b) of the bill would clarify that Section 1(a) applies to birth and death certificate amendment requests made on or after the effective date of the bill.

Kara McCraw
Director



Legislative Analysis
Division
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Office of Vital Records Teleworking Prohibition

Pursuant to the authority granted under G.S. 126-4(5) and Section 4.8 of S.L. 1999-328, the Office of State Human Resources established a teleworking policy that permits agencies to designate employees to work at alternate work locations for all or part of the workweek. The Department of Health and Human Services has also established a teleworking policy under Section V of its departmental policies and manuals.

Section 2(a) of the bill would prohibit the employees of the Office of Vital Records from teleworking, except as determined necessary by the Secretary of the Department of Health and Human Services during any period of time when there is a declared disaster or emergency pursuant to Chapter 166A of the General Statutes. As used in this section, the term "telework" means to use the internet, email, or telephone to perform work duties at a location other than an assigned primary workstation.

Section 2(b) of the bill would clarify that Section 2(a) applies to all permanent and temporary employees of the Office of Vital Records.

EFFECTIVE DATE: The bill would become effective when it becomes law.