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1	SPECIAL SESSION
2	H.16
3	Introduced by Committee on Government Operations
4	Date:
5	Subject: Government operations; health; vital records
6	Statement of purpose of bill as introduced: This bill proposes to extend from
7	July 1, 2018 until July 1, 2019 the date on which birth or death records shall
8	be issued from a statewide registration system.
9	An act relating to vital records
10	It is hereby enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Vermont:
11	Sec. 1. 2017 Acts and Resolves No. 46, Sec. 63 is amended to read:
12	Sec. 63. EFFECTIVE DATES
13	(a) This section; in Sec. 3, 18 V.S.A. § 5000(e)(8) and (f) (rulemaking
14	authority); and in Sec. 39, 18 V.S.A. § 5131(a)(2) (marriage license
15	application form) shall take effect on passage.
16	(b) All other sections of this act shall take effect on July 1, 2018 2019.
17	Sec. 2. REPEAL
18	The following sections of 2017 Acts and Resolves No. 46 shall be repealed:
19	(1) Sec. 9, amending 18 V.S.A. § 5007;
20	(2) Sec. 17, adding 18 V.S.A. § 5016;

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1	(3) Sec. 22, amending 18 V.S.A. § 5073;
2	(4) Sec. 24, amending 18 V.S.A. § 5075;
3	(5) Sec. 29, amending 15A V.S.A. § 3-802;
4	(6) Sec. 30, amending 18 V.S.A. § 5078; and
5	(7) Sec. 52, amending 18 V.S.A. § 5202a.
6	Sec. 3. 18 V.S.A. § 5000(c)(2) is added to read:
7	(2) On and after July 1, 2019:
8	(A) upon registration of a birth or death in the Statewide Registration
9	System, the System shall automatically notify the town clerk of the town of
10	occurrence and the town clerk of residence of the registrant;
11	(B) upon the correction or amendment of a birth or death
12	certificate registered in the System, or upon issuance of a new birth
13	certificate to replace a birth certificate registered in the System, the System
14	shall automatically notify the town clerk of the town of occurrence and the
15	town clerk of residence of the registrant.
16	Sec. 4. 18 V.S.A. § 5007 is amended to read:
17	§ 5007. PRESERVATION OF DATA <u>RECORDS</u>
18	A town clerk shall receive, number, and file for record certificates of births,
19	marriages, civil unions, and deaths, and shall preserve such certificates
20	together with the and burial-transit and removal permits returned to the clerk,
21	in a fireproof vault or safe, as provided by 24 V.S.A. § 1178. A town clerk
22	shall permanently preserve at the office of the clerk birth and death certificates

1	registered prior to July 1, 2019 and marriage and civil union certificates.
2	Sec. 5. 18 V.S.A. § 5016 is added to read:
3	§ 5016. BIRTH AND DEATH CERTIFICATES; COPIES; INSPECTION
4	(a) Access and issuance generally.
5	(1) Except as provided in subdivisions (2) and (3) of this subsection:
6	(A) only the State Registrar and issuing agents may issue certified
7	copies of birth and death certificates registered before July 1, 2019, and such
8	certificates shall only be issued from the Statewide Registration System; and
9	(B) only the State Registrar and issuing agents may issue certified or
10	noncertified copies of birth and death certificates registered on or after July 1,
11	2019, and such certificates shall only be issued from the Statewide
12	Registration System.
13	(2) Copies of birth and death certificates registered prior to January
14	1, 1909 shall not be issued from the Statewide Registration System. Any
15	town clerk may issue a certified copy of a pre-1909 birth or death
16	certificate, provided he or she fulfills the requirements of subsection (b) of
17	this section and such additional requirements as the State Registrar may
18	prescribe as necessary to track antifraud paper used to produce such copies.
19	(3) A certified or noncertified birth or death certificate shall only be
20	issued as authorized and prescribed in this section, except that in either of
21	the following circumstances, a public agency may issue a noncertified copy
22	even if it does not follow the requirements of this section governing

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1	noncertified copies:
2	(A) if the public agency is an agency other than the Office of Vital
3	Records, the Vermont State Archives and Records Administration, or the
4	office of a town or county, and the public agency has custody of a birth or
5	death certificate acquired in the course of its business; or
6	(B) if the birth or death certificate was filed in the records of a
7	town or county office, such as land records, for a reason unrelated to its
8	official role under law as a repository of registered birth or death
9	certificates.
10	(4) The word "illegitimate" shall be redacted from any certified or
11	noncertified copy of a birth certificate.
12	(5) If necessary to prevent fraud, the State Registrar may limit the
13	issuance of a certified or noncertified copy of a certificate of live birth for a
14	foreign born child in the same manner as copies of birth certificates are limited
15	under this section.
16	(b) Certified copies.
17	(1) The State Registrar and issuing agents may issue certified copies
18	of birth and death certificates only upon receipt of a complete application
19	accompanied by a form of identification prescribed in rules adopted by the
20	State Registrar. The State Registrar and issuing agents shall record in a

database maintained by the State Registrar any application received.

(2) Only the following persons shall be eligible for a certified copy

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1	of a birth or death certificate:
2	(A) the registrant or his or her spouse, child, parent, sibling,
3	grandparent, or guardian; a person petitioning to open a decedent's estate; a
4	court-appointed executor or administrator; or the legal representative of any of
5	these;
6	(B) a specific person pursuant to a court order finding that a
7	noncertified copy is not sufficient for the applicant's legal purpose and that a
8	certified copy of the birth or death certificate is needed for the determination
9	or protection of a person's right; or
10	(C) in the case of a death certificate only, additionally to:
11	(i) the individual with authority for final disposition as provided
12	in section 5227 of this title or a funeral home or crematorium acting on the
13	individual's behalf;
14	(ii) the Social Security Administration;
15	(iii) the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs; or
16	(iv) the deceased's insurance carrier, if such carrier provides
17	benefits to the decedent's survivors or beneficiaries.
18	(3) Antifraud paper. Certified copies of birth and death certificates shall be
19	issued only on unique paper with antifraud features approved by the State Registrar.
20	(4) Legal effect. A certified copy of a birth or death certificate shall be prima
21	facie evidence of the facts stated therein.
22	(c) Noncertified copies.

1	(1) Form. A noncertified copy of a birth or death certificate issued from
2	the Statewide Registration System shall indicate the term "Noncertified" on its
3	face and shall not be issued on antifraud paper.
4	(2) Legal effect. A noncertified copy of a birth or death certificate shall
5	not serve as prima facie evidence of the facts stated therein, except that it may
6	be recorded in the land records of a municipality to establish the date of birth
7	or death of a person with an ownership interest in property.
8	(d) Inspection. In addition to the provisions of the Public Records Act, the
9	State Registrar may prescribe procedures governing the inspection of birth and
10	death certificates if necessary to protect the integrity of the certificates or to
11	prevent fraud.
12	Sec. 6. 18 V.S.A. § 5073 is amended to read:
13	§ 5073. AMENDMENT OF MINOR ERRORS ON BIRTH CERTIFICATE
14	CORRECTIONS, COMPLETIONS
15	(a)(1) Within Except as otherwise provided in subdivision (2) of this
16	subsection, within six months after the date of birth, amendment of obvious
17	errors, transpositions of letters in words of common knowledge, or omissions,
18	may be made by the town clerk either upon his or her own observation or the
19	State Registrar may correct or complete a birth certificate in the Statewide
20	Registration System upon request application of a parent, the hospital, in
21	which the birth occurred, or the certifying attendant, or the Supervisor of Vital
22	Records Registration.

1	(2) At any time after the date of birth, the State Registrar may complete
2	a birth certificate to add the name of a parent only upon request of the
3	registrant or his or her parent or guardian and upon the receipt of:
4	(A) a properly executed voluntary acknowledgment of parentage; or
5	(B) a decree of a court or administrative agency of competent
6	jurisdiction adjudicating parentage.
7	(3) Within six months after the date of birth, the State Registrar may
8	complete or change the name of a child upon joint application of the parents or
9	upon application of the parent if only one parent is listed on the birth
10	certificate. A court order shall not be required, except for completions or
11	changes of name more than six months after the date of birth.
12	(b) If the State Registrar determines that a correction or completion
13	requested under this section is unwarranted, he or she may deny an application,
14	in which case the applicant may petition the Probate Division of the Superior
15	Court. The court shall review the petition and relevant evidence de novo to
16	determine if the correction or completion is warranted. The court shall
17	transmit a decree ordering a correction or completion to the State Registrar,
18	who shall correct or complete the certificate in accordance with the decree.
19	(c) The amended A corrected or completed certificate shall be free of any
20	evidence of such correction except that the clerk shall make a notation as to the
21	change and shall not be marked "Amended." However, the State Registrar
22	shall record and maintain in the Statewide Registration System the source of

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1	the information, together with his or her name the nature and content of the		
2	change, the identity of the person making the change, and the date the change		
3	was made, on the margin of the certificate. This notation shall not be included		
4	on any certified copy of the certificate issued except as specified in subsection		
5	(b) of this section. The certificate shall not be marked "Amended."		
6	(b) The town clerk shall send a certified copy of any certificate amended		
7	under subsection (a) of this section to the Commissioner and also to the clerk		
8	of any town to whom a copy of the original record was sent under the		
9	provisions of section 5009 of this title, and shall enclose with that copy, but		
10	not endorsed thereon, a notation identifying the copy to be replaced. The copy		
11	shall show the notations specified in subsection (a) of this section. The		
12	Commissioner shall file this return or copy by attaching the same to the		
13	original return or copy.		
14	(d) If the State Registrar corrects or completes a certificate that was		
15	registered prior to July 1, 2019, he or she shall notify the town clerk or clerks		
16	with custody of the certificate, who shall replace and dispose of the		
17	uncorrected certificate and update indexes as directed by the State Registrar.		
18	Corrected or completed originals shall not be marked "Amended."		
19	Sec. 7. 18 V.S.A. § 5075 is amended to read:		
20 21 22 23	§ 5075. ISSUANCE OF NEW OR CORRECTED AMENDED OR <u>DELAYED</u> BIRTH CERTIFICATE BY PROBATE DIVISION OF THE SUPERIOR COURT APPLICATION (a) After Except as otherwise provided in subdivision 5073(a)(2) of this		

1	<u>title</u> , <u>after</u> six months from the date of birth, <u>any alteration of</u> the birth
2	certificate of a person born in this state may be amended only by the decree of
3	the Probate Division of the Superior Court of the district in which such birth
4	occurred State shall be deemed an amendment. A petition for such
5	amendment may be brought by the person, the person's Upon application by
6	the registrant, his or her parent or guardian, the hospital in which the birth
7	occurred, or the certifying attendant, or custodian setting forth the reason for
8	such petition and the correction or amendment desired and the reason for it,
9	the State Registrar may amend the birth certificate if the application and
10	relevant evidence, if any, show that the amendment is warranted.
11	(b) A person born in this State for whom no certificate of birth was filed
12	during the first year following birth, or his or her parent or guardian, may
13	petition the Probate Division of the Superior Court of the district in which
14	such person was born apply to the State Registrar to determine the facts with
15	respect to this the birth and to order the issuance of issue a delayed certificate
16	of birth.
17	(b) Birth certificates issued under this section for minor errors as defined in
18	subsection 5073(a) of this title shall be corrected without payment of a fee.
19	(c) If the State Registrar denies an application under this section, the
20	applicant may petition the Probate Division of the Superior Court, which shall
21	review the application and relevant evidence de novo to determine if the
22	amendment or issuance of a delayed certificate is warranted. The court shall

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1	transmit a decree ordering an amendment or issuance of a delayed certificate to
2	the State Registrar, who shall amend or issue the certificate in accordance with
3	the decree.
4	(d) The State Registrar shall make any amendment and register any
5	delayed certificate in the Statewide Registration System. Any amended birth
6	certificate issued from the System shall indicate the word "Amended" and the
7	date of amendment, and any delayed certificate issued from the System shall
8	indicate the word "Delayed" and the date of registration. The State Registrar
9	shall record and maintain in the System the identity of the person requesting
10	the amendment or delayed certificate, the nature and content of the change
11	made in the System, the person who made the amendment or registered the
12	delayed certificate in the System, and the date of the amendment or
13	registration.
14	(e) If the State Registrar amends a certificate that was registered prior to
15	July 1, 2019, he or she shall notify the town clerk or clerks with custody of the
16	certificate, who shall replace and dispose of the unamended certificate and
17	update indexes as directed by the State Registrar.
18	Sec. 8. 18 V.S.A. § 5078 is amended to read:
19	§ 5078. ADOPTION; NEW <u>AND AMENDED</u> BIRTH CERTIFICATE
20	(a) The Supervisor of Vital Records Registration shall establish a new birth
21	certificate for a person born in the State when the Supervisor When the State
22	Registrar receives a record report of adoption, a report of an amended

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1	adoption, or a report that an adoption has been set aside as provided in
2	15 V.S.A. § 449 15A V.S.A. § 3-801, or a record of adoption prepared and
3	filed in accordance with the laws of another state or foreign country, he or she
4	shall proceed as prescribed in 15A V.S.A. § 3-802.
5	(b) The new birth certificate shall be on a form prescribed by the
6	Commissioner of Health. The new birth certificate shall include:
7	(1) the actual place and date of birth;
8	(2) the adoptive parents as though they were natural parents;
9	(3) If prior to July 1, 2019 a new birth certificate was issued following
10	an adoption that contains a notation that it was issued by authority of this
11	chapter, contains the filing dates of the original and the new birth certificate,
12	or otherwise contains information that facially distinguishes it from an
13	original, the adoptive parent or the adoptee if 14 years of age or older may
14	apply to the State Registrar to issue a replacement birth certificate that does
15	not contain distinguishing information. The State Registrar shall issue the
16	replacement and notify any town clerk with custody of the version that
17	contains distinguishing information, who shall substitute the latter with the
18	replacement birth certificate. The town clerk shall send the version that
19	contains distinguishing information to the State Registrar, who shall keep it
20	confidential.
21	(c) The new birth certificate shall not contain a statement whether the
22	adopted person was illegitimate. [Repealed.]

1	(d) The new certificate, and sufficient information to identify the original
2	certificate, shall be transmitted to the clerk of the town of birth to be filed
3	according to the procedures in 15 V.S.A. § 451. [Repealed.]
4	(e) The Supervisor of Vital Records Registration shall not establish a new
5	birth certificate if the supervisor receives, accompanying the record of
6	adoption, a written request that a new certificate not be established:
7	(1) from the adopted person if 18 years or older; or
8	(2) from the adoptive parent or parents if the adopted person is under 18
9	years of age. [Repealed.]
10	(f) When the Supervisor of Vital Records Registration receives a record of
11	adoption for a person born in another state, the Supervisor shall forward a
12	certified copy of the record of adoption to the state registrar in the state of
13	birth, with a request that a new birth certificate be established under the laws
14	of that state. [Repealed.]
15	Sec. 9. 18 V.S.A. § 5202a is amended to read:
16 17 18	§ 5202a. CORRECTION, COMPLETION, OR AMENDMENT OF DEATH CERTIFICATE (a) Corrections, completions. Within six months after the date of death, the
19	town clerk State Registrar may correct or complete a death certificate upon
20	application by the certifying physician licensed health care professional,
21	medical examiner, hospital, nursing home, or funeral director, if the
22	application and relevant evidence, if any, show that the correction or
23	completion is warranted. The town clerk may correct or complete the

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- certificate accordingly and shall certify thereon that such correction or completion was made pursuant to this section, with the date thereof. In his or her discretion, the town clerk may refuse an application for correction or completion, in which case, the applicant may petition the Probate Division of the Superior Court for such correction or completion.

 (b)(1) Amendments. After six months from the date of death, any
- alteration of a death certificate may only be corrected or amended pursuant to decree of the Probate Division of the Superior Court in which district the original certificate is filed shall be deemed an amendment. Upon application by a person specified in subsection (a) of this section, the State Registrar may amend the death certificate if the application and relevant evidence, if any, show that the amendment is warranted.
- (2) The Probate Division of the Superior Court to which such application is made shall set a time for hearing thereon and, if such court deems necessary, cause notice of the time and place thereof to be given by posting the same in the Probate Division of the Superior Court office and, after hearing, shall make such findings, with respect to the correction of such death certificate as are supported by the evidence. The court shall thereupon issue a decree setting forth the facts as found and transmit a certified copy of such decree to the Supervisor of Vital Records Registration. The Supervisor of Vital Records Registration.
 - (c) Appeal. If the State Registrar denies an application for a correction,

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1	completion, or amendment under this section, the applicant may petition the
2	Probate Division of the Superior Court, which shall review the application and
3	relevant evidence de novo to determine if the requested action is warranted.
4	The court shall transmit a decree ordering a correction, completion, or
5	amendment to the State Registrar, who shall take action in accordance with the
6	decree.
7	(d) Documentation of changes. The State Registrar shall make corrections,
8	completions, and amendments in the Statewide Registration System. A
9	corrected or completed certificate issued from the System shall be free of any
10	evidence of the alteration and shall not be marked "Amended." Any amended
11	death certificate issued from the System shall indicate the word "Amended"
12	and the date of amendment. The State Registrar shall enter into and maintain
13	in the System the identity of the person requesting the correction, completion,
14	or amendment, the nature and content of the change, the identity of the person
15	making the change in the System, and the date the change was made.
16	(e) Original certificates. If the State Registrar corrects, completes, or
17	amends a certificate that was registered prior to July 1, 2019, he or she shall
18	transmit the same to the appropriate town clerk to amend notify the town clerk
19	or clerks with custody of the original or issue a new certificate, who shall
20	replace and dispose of the original and update indexes, as directed by the State
21	Registrar. The words "Court Amended" shall be typed, written, or stamped at
22	the top of the new or amended certificates with the date of the decree and the

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- (c)(f) Provided, however, that only the medical examiner or the certifying physician may apply to Cause of death. The State Registrar shall only correct or, complete the certificate as to, or amend the medical certification of the cause of death upon application by the medical examiner or certifying licensed health care professional. Sec. 10. 15A V.S.A. § 3-802 is amended to read: § 3-802. ISSUANCE OF NEW, AMENDED BIRTH CERTIFICATE (a) Except as otherwise provided in subsection (d) of this section, upon receipt of a report of adoption prepared pursuant to section 3-801 subsection 3-801(a) of this title, a report of adoption prepared in accordance with the law of another state or country, a certified copy of a decree of adoption together with information necessary to identify the adoptee's original birth certificate and to issue a new certificate, or a report of an amended adoption prepared pursuant to subsection 3-801(b) of this title, the supervisor of vital records State Registrar shall either: (1) issue a new birth certificate for an adoptee born in this state State, update the Statewide Registration System in accordance with the decree, and furnish a certified copy of the a new birth certificate to the adoptive parent and
 - (2) forward a certified copy of a report of adoption for an adoptee born in another state, forward a certified copy of the report of adoption to the

to an adoptee who has attained is 14 years of age or older;

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- (3) issue a certificate of foreign birth for an adoptee adopted in this state and State who was born outside the United States and was not a citizen of the United States at the time of birth, create and register in the Statewide

 Registration System a "certificate of live birth for a foreign born child" upon request and in the form specified in 18 V.S.A. § 5078a, and furnish a certified copy of the certificate to the adoptive parent and to an adoptee who has attained is 14 years of age or older;
- (4) notify an adoptive parent of the procedure for obtaining a revised birth certificate through the U.S. Department of State for an adoptee born outside the United States who was a citizen of the United States at the time of birth, notify the adoptive parent of the procedure for obtaining a revised birth certificate through the U.S. Department of State; or
- (5) in the case of an amended decree of adoption, issue an amended birth certificate according to either update the Statewide Registration System in accordance with the decree and follow the procedure in subdivision (a)(1) or (3) of this section, or follow the procedure in subdivision (2) or (4) of this section.
- (b) Unless otherwise specified by the court, a new birth certificate or certificate of live birth for a foreign born child issued pursuant to subdivision (a)(1) or (3) or an amended certificate issued pursuant to subdivision (a)(5) of this section shall:

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- (1) be signed by the supervisor of vital records State Registrar;
- (2) include the date, time, and place of birth of the adoptee;
- (3) substitute the name of the adoptive parent for the name of the person listed as the adoptee's parent on the original birth certificate;
- (4) include the filing date of the original birth certificate and the filing date of the new birth certificate; [Repealed.]
- (5) contain any other information prescribed by the supervisor of vital records State Registrar.
- (c) The supervisor of vital records, and any other custodian of such records, In the case of birth certificates registered prior to July 1, 2019 that are to be replaced or amended pursuant to subdivision (a)(1) or (5) of this section, the State Registrar shall notify the town clerk or clerks with custody of the certificate, who shall substitute the new or amended birth certificate for the original birth certificate. The original certificate and all copies of the certificate in the files shall be sealed and shall not be subject to inspection or copying until 99 years after the adoptee's date of birth, except as provided by this title.
- (d) If the court, the adoptive parent, or an adoptee who has attained is

 14 years of age or older requests that a new or amended birth certificate not be issued, the supervisor of vital records may State Registrar shall not issue a new or amended certificate for an adoptee pursuant to subsection (a) of this section, but. Nonetheless, for an adoptee born in another state, the State Registrar shall

1	forward a certified copy of the report of adoption or of an amended decree of
2	adoption for an adoptee who was born in another state to the appropriate office
3	in the adoptee's state of birth.
4	(e) Upon receipt of a report that an adoption has been vacated set aside, the
5	supervisor of vital records State Registrar shall:
6	(1) restore the original birth certificate for a person born in this state to
7	its place in the files, State for whom a new birth certificate was issued, update
8	the Statewide Registration System to reflect the original birth certificate data
9	and, in the case of an original birth certificate registered prior to July 1, 2019,
10	notify the town clerk or clerks with custody of the certificate, who shall seal
11	any new or amended birth certificate issued pursuant to subsection (a) of this
12	section, restore the original, update indexes as directed by the State Registrar,
13	and not allow inspection or copying of a the sealed certificate except upon
14	court order or as otherwise provided in this title;
15	(2) forward the report with respect to for a person born in another state,
16	forward the report to the appropriate office in the state of birth; or
17	(3) for an adoptee born outside the United States who was not a citizen
18	of the United States at the time of birth for whom a certificate of live birth for
19	a foreign born child was issued, update the Statewide Registration System to
20	reflect that the adoption was set aside; or

(4) notify the person who is granted legal custody of a former adoptee

after an adoption is vacated of the procedure for obtaining an original birth

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certificate through the U.S. Department of State for a former adoptee born
outside the United States who was a citizen of the United States at the time of
birth, notify the person who is granted legal custody of a former adoptee after
an adoption is set aside of the procedure for obtaining an original birth
certificate through the U.S. Department of State.
(f) Upon request by a person who was listed as a parent on an adoptee's
original birth certificate and who furnishes appropriate proof of the person's
identity, the supervisor of vital records State Registrar shall give the person a
noncertified copy of the original birth certificate.
Sec. 11. EFFECTIVE DATES
(a) This section and Secs. 1 (Act 46 effective dates) and 2 (repeal of Act 46
sections) shall take effect on passage.
(b) Sec. 3 (18 V.S.A. § 5000(c)(2)) shall take effect on July 1, 2019 and
shall supersede amendments to 18 V.S.A. § 5000(c)(2) made by 2017 Acts and
Resolves No. 46, Sec. 3.
(c) All other sections shall take effect on July 1, 2019.