



MICHIGAN GENEALOGICAL COUNCIL
P.O. Box 80953
Lansing, MI 48908-0953
<http://mimgc.org>

September 18, 2013

To: Michigan Senate Appropriations Committee
Re: HB 4786

My name is Thomas Koselka, and I am the president of the Michigan Genealogical Council, which is an umbrella organization of over 70 genealogy and family history societies in Michigan. The Michigan Genealogical Council opposes HB 4786.

One of the primary reasons we do the research on our family histories is to discover hereditary diseases; those that run along blood lines. Death certificates include much of this information. Some of these include Huntington's disease, Tay-Sachs disease, cystic fibrosis, hemophilia, and diabetes. Family historians are one of the largest, if not the largest consumers of birth, death, and marriage records.

The proposed increase of over 30%, from \$26 to \$34, for vital records seems excessive, especially when compared to other states fees for these same records. From a survey of vital record costs, Michigan currently ranks third highest in the country. Increasing these fees would rank Michigan as number one in the cost of these vital records.

Several years ago, the Surgeon General of the U.S. recommended each American create their family health history, recording and charting diseases of our two parents, four grandparents, and eight great-grandparents. If we had to order those 14 death certificates to learn their causes of death, at current MDCH rates, that would come to \$364. Under the proposed new rates, that cost would jump to \$476!

The funding of the Vital Records Division should not come entirely from user fees. Collection and maintenance of vital records is one of the core functions of state government and should have GF/GP funding in addition to user fees.

The Michigan Genealogical Council urges you to vote no on this bill in its current form.

Cordially,
Thomas Koselka, President
Michigan Genealogical Council

38740 Palmer Rd.
Westland, MI 48186
tom@mimgc.org

U.S. Vital Records Costs

State	Birth	Death	Marriage	Divorce	Notes
ALABAMA	15.00	15.00	15.00	15.00	
ALASKA	25.00	25.00	25.00	25.00	
ARIZONA	20.00	20.00	varies	varies	mar & div index verification only
ARKANSAS	12.00	10.00	10.00	10.00	
CALIFORNIA	18.00	14.00	14.00	13.00	
COLORADO	17.75	20.00	17.00	17.00	
CONNECTICUT	30.00	20.00	20.00	varies	
DELAWARE	25.00	25.00	25.00	25.00	
DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA	23.00	18.00	10.00	6.50	
FLORIDA	9.00	5.00	5.00	5.00	
GEORGIA	25.00	25.00	10.00	10.00	
HAWAII	10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00	
IDAHO	18.00	19.00	18.00	18.00	
ILLINOIS	15.00	19.00	5.00	5.00	
INDIANA	10.00	8.00	8.00	varies	
IOWA	15.00	15.00	15.00	varies	
KANSAS	15.00	15.00	15.00	15.00	
KENTUCKY	10.00	6.00	6.00	6.00	
LOUISIANA	15.50	7.50	5.50	varies	bir short form 9.50
MAINE	15.00	15.00	15.00	15.00	
MARYLAND	24.00	12.00	12.00	12.00	
MASSACHUSETTS	28.00	28.00	28.00	no fee	birth marr div in person 18, state archives 3
MICHIGAN	26.00	26.00	26.00	26.00	
MINNESOTA	26.00	13.00	9.00	10.00	marr & div county
MISSISSIPPI	15.00	15.00	15.00	varies	
MISSOURI	15.00	13.00	15.00	15.00	
MONTANA	15.00	12.00	varies	varies	
NEBRASKA	12.00	11.00	11.00	11.00	
NEVADA	20.00	20.00	varies	varies	
NEW HAMPSHIRE	15.00	15.00	15.00	15.00	
NEW JERSEY	25.00	25.00	25.00	10.00	
NEW MEXICO	10.00	5.00	varies	varies	
NEW YORK	30.00	30.00	30.00	30.00	excluding NYC birth death marr
NEW YORK CITY	15.00	15.00	10.00	30.00	div state
NORTH CAROLINA	24.00	24.00	24.00	24.00	
NORTH DAKOTA	7.00	5.00	varies	varies	
OHIO	21.50	21.50	county	county	
OKLAHOMA	15.00	15.00	varies	varies	
OREGON	20.00	20.00	20.00	20.00	
PENNSYLVANIA	10.00	9.00	county	county	
RHODE ISLAND	20.00	20.00	20.00	3.00	
SOUTH CAROLINA	12.00	12.00	12.00	12.00	
SOUTH DAKOTA	15.00	15.00	15.00	15.00	
TENNESSEE	15.00	7.00	15.00	15.00	birth short form 8
TEXAS	22.00	20.00	varies	varies	
UTAH	18.00	16.00	16.00	16.00	
VERMONT	10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00	
VIRGINIA	12.00	12.00	12.00	12.00	
WASHINGTON	20.00	20.00	20.00	20.00	
WEST VIRGINIA	12.00	12.00	12.00	varies	
WISCONSIN	20.00	20.00	20.00	20.00	
WYOMING	13.00	10.00	13.00	13.00	