

SENATE HEALTH, HUMAN SERVICES AND SENIOR
CITIZENS COMMITTEE

STATEMENT TO

SENATE, No. 1656

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

DATED: MARCH 10, 2022

The Senate Health, Human Services and Senior Citizens Committee reports favorably Senate Bill No. 1656.

This bill authorizes county surrogates to obtain vital statistics records on behalf of certain individuals.

Specifically, the bill requires the State registrar in the Department of Health to permit and facilitate a county surrogate's access to the vital statistics records needed in order for the county surrogate to provide a certified copy of a death certificate to an authorized person, upon request by that person. The bill requires that the authorized person is otherwise engaged in receiving services provided by the requesting county surrogate as a condition of the county surrogate making a records request for the person.

As provided under current law, the term "authorized person" includes: the parent, legal guardian or other legal representative of the subject of the vital record; the subject's spouse, child, grandchild or sibling, if of legal age, or the subject's legal representative; an agency of State or federal government accessing the record for official purposes; a person with a court order for the vital record; or a person who is authorized under other emergent circumstances, as determined by the Commissioner of Health.

The bill also adds language expressly permitting an authorized person to obtain a certified copy of a death certificate from a county surrogate.