

SENATE BILL NO. 261

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

THIRTY-FOURTH LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION

BY SENATOR GRAY-JACKSON

Introduced: 2/23/26

Referred: Health and Social Services, Finance

A BILL

FOR AN ACT ENTITLED

1 "An Act relating to the issuance of certified copies of birth certificates to unhoused
2 young adults; and relating to the issuance of identification cards to unhoused young
3 adults."

4 **BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA:**

5 * **Section 1.** AS 18.50.320 is amended to read:

6 **Sec. 18.50.320. Copies of data from vital records.** Except as otherwise
7 provided and in accordance with the regulations adopted under AS 18.50.310,

8 (1) the bureau and the custodian of permanent local records shall, upon
9 request, issue a certified copy of a certificate or record in their custody, or a part of it;
10 each copy issued must show the date of registration or recording, and copies issued
11 from records marked "delayed," "amended," or "court order" shall be similarly marked
12 and must show the effective date;

13 (2) a certified copy of a certificate or a part of it issued in accordance
14 with (1) of this **subsection** [SECTION] is considered the original for all purposes and

1 is prima facie evidence of the facts stated; however, the evidentiary value of a
 2 certificate or record filed more than one year after the event, or a record that has been
 3 amended, or a presumptive death certificate, shall be determined by the judicial or
 4 administrative body or official before whom the certificate is offered as evidence;

5 (3) the National Office of Vital Statistics may be furnished the copies
 6 or data it requires for national statistics if the bureau is reimbursed for the cost of
 7 furnishing the data; the National Office of Vital Statistics may not use the data for
 8 purposes other than statistical purposes unless authorized by the state registrar;

9 (4) federal, state, local, and other public or private agencies, upon
 10 request, may be furnished copies or data for statistical purposes on the terms or
 11 conditions prescribed by the bureau;

12 (5) a person or agency may not prepare or issue a certificate or part of
 13 a certificate that purports to be an original, certified copy, or copy of a certificate of
 14 birth, death, fetal death, or marriage, except as authorized in this chapter or the
 15 regulations adopted under it;

16 (6) upon request, the bureau shall furnish a copy of a certificate or
 17 record registered by the bureau to the child support services agency created in
 18 AS 25.27.010, or the child support enforcement agency of another state, for child
 19 support purposes authorized under law; such a certificate or record that is prepared or
 20 maintained in an electronic data base may be supplied by providing the requesting
 21 agency with a copy of the electronic certificate or record and a statement certifying its
 22 contents;

23 (7) the bureau shall issue up to four certified copies of the death
 24 certificate of a veteran without charge; under this paragraph, certified copies of a
 25 veteran's death certificate are available without charge only to a qualified person; in
 26 this paragraph,

27 (A) "qualified person" means an individual who is

28 (i) a personal representative of the veteran's estate;

29 (ii) a trustee of a revocable trust of which the veteran
 30 was the settlor; or

31 (iii) a person who needs a certified copy of the veteran's

1 death certificate for the purpose of satisfying an eligibility requirement
2 for a benefit related to the death of the veteran;

3 (B) "veteran" means an individual who was

4 (i) on active duty at the time of the veteran's death or
5 had received an honorable or general discharge from a branch of the
6 armed services of the United States, the National Guard, a reserve unit
7 of the United States armed services, the Alaska Scouts, the Alaska
8 Territorial Guard, or the Alaska Naval Militia; and

9 (ii) a resident of the state at the time of the individual's death.

10 * **Sec. 2.** AS 18.50.320 is amended by adding a new subsection to read:

11 (b) If a person meets the requirements for fee waiver under AS 18.50.330(c),
12 the bureau and the custodian of permanent local records shall accept as proof of
13 identity in the person's request for a certified copy of the person's birth certificate

14 (1) an expired or unexpired government-issued photo identification;

15 (2) two of the following documents:

16 (A) an official secondary or postsecondary school record that
17 contains the name, the date of birth, and a description of the person;

18 (B) an education or medical record containing the name and
19 date of birth of the person;

20 (C) an affidavit from another person attesting to the person's
21 identity;

22 (D) other documents containing requisite information to prove
23 identity as determined by the department in regulation; or

24 (3) other proof of identity accepted by the bureau and the custodian of
25 permanent local records for the issuance of a certified copy of a birth certificate.

26 * **Sec. 3.** AS 18.50.330 is amended by adding a new subsection to read:

27 (c) The state registrar may not charge a fee to a person who is unhoused and at
28 least 18 years of age but not yet 26 years of age for the issuance of a certified copy of
29 the person's birth certificate. A person may establish that the person is unhoused under
30 this subsection by providing the state registrar with written verification on a form
31 prescribed by the department.

1 * **Sec. 4.** AS 18.65.310(c) is amended to read:

2 (c) Any person who knowingly makes a fraudulent written statement or
3 application for an identification card concerning age, **unhoused status**, race, sex, or
4 other identifying characteristics as required by the department is guilty of a
5 misdemeanor.

6 * **Sec. 5.** AS 18.65.310(g) is repealed and reenacted to read:

7 (g) A person applying for an identification card that is not federally compliant
8 under (a) of this section may not be charged for the issuance of the card if the person
9 is

10 (1) 60 years of age or older; or

11 (2) unhoused and at least 18 years of age but not yet 26 years of age.

12 * **Sec. 6.** AS 18.65.310 is amended by adding new subsections to read:

13 (s) A person may establish that the person is unhoused under (g)(2) of this
14 section by providing the department with written verification on a form prescribed by
15 the department.

16 (t) When issuing an identification card that is not federally compliant to a
17 person who meets the requirements in (g)(2) of this section, the department

18 (1) may display on the card an address other than a principal residence
19 if the address is where

20 (A) the person is most frequently located and the person
21 provides the department with a list of the locations where the person is
22 frequently located; or

23 (B) an organization that provides services to people who are
24 unhoused is located and the organization provides a written declaration
25 verifying that the person uses those services at that address;

26 (2) shall accept as proof of identity from the person

27 (A) an expired or unexpired government-issued photo
28 identification;

29 (B) two of the following documents:

30 (i) an official secondary or postsecondary school record
31 that contains the name, the date of birth, and a description of the

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person;

(ii) an education or medical record containing the name and date of birth of the person;

(iii) an affidavit from another person attesting to the person's identity;

(iv) other documents containing requisite information to prove identity as determined by the department in regulation; or

(C) other proof of identity accepted by the department for an identification card that is not federally compliant.