

## **REPORT OF THE LICENSES, FEES AND OTHER TAXES SUBCOMMITTEE**

(Rutherford, Howard, Hardee & Yow - Staff Contact: Jane Leneave)

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### **HOUSE BILL 3115**

#### **Birth Certificates**

##### **Summary of Bill:**

This bill amends Section 44-63-110 by waiving fees charged for copies of birth certificates for homeless persons. Homeless individuals may receive up to four free birth certificates per year, provided their housing status is verified by a human services agency, legal services agency, or another similar organization familiar with their living situation. Eligible verifiers include homeless service providers, licensed attorneys, school liaisons or social workers, and state-funded programs serving vulnerable populations.

The Department of Public Health shall promulgate regulations to establish standards and procedures consistent with this section for waiver of applicable fees.

##### **Estimated Fiscal Impact:**

The Fiscal Impact Statement has been requested but has not yet been received.

##### **Subcommittee Action/Explanation:**

Passed favorably.

##### **Full Committee Action/Explanation:**

N/A

##### **Other Notes/Comments:**

For purposes of this section, a homeless service agency would be receiving federal, state, county, or municipal funding to provide services or otherwise sanctioned by a local continuum of care and a human service provider is funded by the State to serve homeless or runaway youth, individuals with mental illness, or individuals with addictions.

This bill also amends language changing the "Board of the Department of Public Health and Environmental Control" to just the Department of Public Health, as well as "board" to department.

**South Carolina General Assembly**  
126th Session, 2025-2026

**H. 3115**

**STATUS INFORMATION**

General Bill

Sponsors: Reps. Cobb-Hunter, Spann-Wilder and McCravy

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Introduced in the House on January 14, 2025

Currently residing in the House Committee on **Ways and Means**

Summary: Birth Certificates

**HISTORY OF LEGISLATIVE ACTIONS**

Date	Body	Action Description with journal page number
12/5/2024	House	Prefiled
12/5/2024	House	Referred to Committee on <b>Ways and Means</b>
1/14/2025	House	Introduced and read first time (House Journal-page 97)
1/14/2025	House	Referred to Committee on <b>Ways and Means</b> (House Journal-page 97)

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**VERSIONS OF THIS BILL**

12/05/2024

1  
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4  
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6  
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8  
9 **A BILL**  
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11 TO AMEND THE SOUTH CAROLINA CODE OF LAWS BY AMENDING SECTION 44-63-110,  
12 RELATING TO FEES CHARGED FOR COPIES OF BIRTH CERTIFICATES, SO AS TO WAIVE  
13 THE FEES FOR HOMELESS PERSONS.  
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15 Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the State of South Carolina:  
16

17 SECTION 1. Section 44-63-110 of the S.C. Code is amended to read:  
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19 Section 44-63-110. (A) For making, furnishing, or certifying any card, certificate, or certified copy  
20 of the record, for filing a record amendment according to the provisions of Section 44-63-60, 44-63-80,  
21 44-63-90 or 44-63-100, or for searching the record, when no card, certificate, or certified copy is made,  
22 a fee in an amount as determined by the Board of the Department of Public Health and Environmental  
23 Control must be paid by the applicant, except that the Department of Social Services or its designee is  
24 not required to pay a fee when the information is needed for the purpose of establishing paternity or  
25 establishing, modifying, or enforcing a child support obligation. The amount of the fee established by  
26 the board department may not exceed the cost of the services performed and to the extent possible must  
27 be charged on a uniform basis throughout the State. When verification of the facts contained in these  
28 records is needed for Veterans Administration purposes in connection with a claim, it must be furnished  
29 without charge to the Veterans' Affairs Department of the Governor's Office or to a county veterans  
30 affairs officer upon request and upon the furnishing of satisfactory evidence that the request is for the  
31 purpose authorized in this chapter.

32 (B)(1) Notwithstanding the provisions of subsection (A), fees for applicant requests pursuant to this  
33 section must be waived for all requests made by a homeless person whose status is verified as provided  
34 in item (2). A homeless person shall be provided no more than four birth records annually pursuant to  
35 this section.

36 (2) An individual's status as a homeless person may be verified by a human services agency, legal  
37 services agency, or other similar agency that has knowledge of the individual's housing status  
38 including, but not limited to:

39 (a) a homeless service agency receiving federal, state, county, or municipal funding to provide  
40 those services or otherwise sanctioned by a local continuum of care;

1 (b) an attorney licensed to practice in the State;  
2 (c) a public school homeless liaison or school social worker;  
3 (d) a human service provider funded by the State to serve homeless or runaway youth,  
4 individuals with mental illness, or individuals with addictions.  
5 (3) The department shall promulgate regulations to establish standards and procedures consistent  
6 with this section for waiver of applicable fees.

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8 SECTION 2. This act takes effect upon approval by the Governor.

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