

No. 1996-22

AN ACT

HB 270

Amending Title 51 (Military Affairs) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes, further providing for the Department of Health and for counties to furnish certified copies of documents without charge.

The General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania hereby enacts as follows:

Section 1. Section 9201(a) of Title 51 of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes is amended to read:

§ 9201. Certified copies of documents furnished without charge.

(a) General rule.—Whenever application shall be made to the proper [county] *public* officer by or on behalf of any disabled war veteran, or member of the armed forces *or their reserve components or the National Guard*, of any war or armed conflict in which the United States has been, is now or shall hereafter be engaged, or by or on behalf of any dependent of any such veteran, or member of the armed forces *or their reserve components or the National Guard*, for a certified copy of any death certificate, birth certificate, marriage certificate or decree of divorce, for use in connection with any claim for death benefits, compensation allowance, family or dependency allotment, it shall be the duty of such [county] *public* officer to furnish such certified copy free of any charge therefor provided for by any law of this Commonwealth. No divorce certificate shall be issued under this section unless said divorce action record shows all costs fully paid. *As used in this section, the term "public officer" means an authorized official in the Department of Health as to any of the foregoing records in the possession of the Department of Health and the proper county officer as to any other records within this subsection.*

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Section 2. This act shall take effect in 60 days.

APPROVED—The 4th day of April, A.D. 1996.

THOMAS J. RIDGE