

HF4289 - 0 - One Free Certified Birth Record Per Child Est.

Chief Author: **Jeff Backer**
 Committee: **Health Finance And Policy**
 Date Completed: **4/13/2026 1:06:02 PM**
 Agency: **Health Dept**

State Fiscal Impact	Yes	No
Expenditures	X	
Fee/Departmental Earnings	X	
Tax Revenue		X
Information Technology	X	
Local Fiscal Impact	X	

This table shows direct impact to state government only. Local government impact, if any, is discussed in the narrative. Reductions shown in the parentheses.

State Cost (Savings)	Biennium			Biennium		
	Dollars in Thousands	FY2025	FY2026	FY2027	FY2028	FY2029
General Fund	-	-	84	692	692	
State Government Special Rev	-	-	-	333	333	
Other Misc Special Revenue	-	-	-	204	204	
Total	-	-	84	1,229	1,229	
Biennial Total			84		2,458	

Full Time Equivalent Positions (FTE)	Biennium			Biennium	
	FY2025	FY2026	FY2027	FY2028	FY2029
General Fund	-	-	.2	-	-
State Government Special Rev	-	-	-	-	-
Other Misc Special Revenue	-	-	-	-	-
Total	-	-	.2	-	-

LBO Analyst's Comment

I have reviewed this fiscal note for reasonableness of content and consistency with the LBO's Uniform Standards and Procedures.

LBO Signature: Zac Reeves **Date:** 4/13/2026 1:06:02 PM
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State Cost (Savings) Calculation Details

This table shows direct impact to state government only. Local government impact, if any, is discussed in the narrative. Reductions are shown in parentheses.

*Transfers In/Out and Absorbed Costs are only displayed when reported.

State Cost (Savings) = 1-2		Biennium			Biennium	
Dollars in Thousands	FY2025	FY2026	FY2027	FY2028	FY2029	
General Fund	-	-	84	692	692	
State Government Special Rev	-	-	-	333	333	
Other Misc Special Revenue	-	-	-	204	204	
Total	-	-	84	1,229	1,229	
Biennial Total			84			2,458
1 - Expenditures, Absorbed Costs*, Transfers Out*						
General Fund	-	-	84	12	12	
State Government Special Rev	-	-	-	-	-	
Other Misc Special Revenue	-	-	-	-	-	
Total	-	-	84	12	12	
Biennial Total			84			24
2 - Revenues, Transfers In*						
General Fund	-	-	-	(680)	(680)	
State Government Special Rev	-	-	-	(333)	(333)	
Other Misc Special Revenue	-	-	-	(204)	(204)	
Total	-	-	-	(1,217)	(1,217)	
Biennial Total			-			(2,434)

Bill Description

This bill would allow one parent listed on a birth record to request one free birth certificate per child. This would be effective July 1, 2027.

Assumptions

The Minnesota Department of Health (MDH) assumes that on or after July 1, 2027, one parent named on a Minnesota birth record may choose to order one free birth certificate, at their convenience, from any vital records office in Minnesota or the MDH Office of Vital Records (OVR). We assume that the free birth certificate is limited to one certificate per birth record, and we assume that once the free certificate is issued, parents may request additional certificates for a fee.

Because birth certificates are often required by employers to add children to health insurance benefits and by agencies that provide benefits and services to families, we assume that most of the free birth certificates will be issued to parents of newborns. We assume that the free certificate is not limited to newborns and a small number of parents will request it for an older child even if they have previously received one before the law is effective.

Based on statewide vital records data, we assume most parents will request the free birth certificate soon after their child is born. Annually, about 48,000 births occur in Minnesota. Historically, most parents request their child’s birth certificate in the first year after birth, with about 90% issued from local vital records offices, while about 10% are issued by MDH.

Assuming this pattern continued under the new law, we estimate that it would result in an annual loss of revenue to MDH of \$859,200 from the birth certificate surcharge fees that would have been collected from parents of newborns.

Further, in the first few years following enactment, some parents will request a free birth certificate because they had not previously requested one, where parents in separate households each want a copy, or they misplaced a birth certificate they previously purchased.

Based on the same pattern of issuance, local offices issuing about 90% and MDH issuing 10% of the free certificates, we

estimate that the fees that would have been collected from parents who request free birth certificates for older children will result in an additional annual loss of revenue to MDH of \$358,000 in FY28 and FY29, and \$89,500 each year thereafter. For those reasons, we estimate that an additional 20,000 free birth certificates will be issued annually in the first two years, and 5,000 in each subsequent year. This estimate comes from years of seeing the ebb and flow of ordering birth records based on changes made and the impacts they have, whether it is other free birth certificates, Real ID implementation, etc.

The combined total ongoing revenue loss to MDH of birth certificate fees which would have been collected from parents for newborns and older children is estimated at \$1,217,200 in FY28 and FY29 and an ongoing loss of \$948,700 in subsequent years.

To implement the bill, MDH would also incur costs to update the vital records system to track the issuance of the free birth certificates. Estimated system upgrades would require 419 hours for IT development and project management for a one-time cost of \$46,976 in FY27, and ongoing system maintenance costs of \$11,744 per SFY to create a field to track that a free certificate was received. We will require a 0.20 FTE Communications Specialist 3 in FY27 for one-time costs to create a request form, update the website, create training materials, job aids, and other resource documentation, and communicate changes to MDH and local vital records staff.

Expenditure and/or Revenue Formula

Program Implementation					
Expenditure (Actual Dollars)	Amount	FY 2026	FY 2027	FY 2028	FY 2029
Full-time Equivalent (FTE) Staff		FTE	FTE	FTE	FTE
Communications Specialist 3	185,897	0.0	0.2	0.0	0.0
	FTE	0.00	0.20	0.00	0.00
	Subtotal	0	37,179	0	0
Information Technology:					
419 Hours IT Development	0	0	46,976		
IT System maintenance				11,744	11,744
	Subtotal	0	46,976	11,744	11,744
Other Operating Costs:					
	Subtotal	0	0	0	0
Total Expenditures	Total	0	84,155	11,744	11,744
Fiscal Tracking (Dollars in Thousands)		FY 2026	FY 2027	FY 2028	FY 2029
General Fund 1000					
Health Improvement BACT 01		0	84	12	12
Program Implementation		0	84	12	12

Revenue (Actual Dollars)		FY 2026	FY 2027	FY 2028	FY 2029
Fee Description:	Amount	Units	Units	Units	Units
Newborns					
\$0 Birth Certificate (1 per parent/per record)	(26.00)	0	0	0	0
Vital Record Birth/Death Surcharge \$4 SGSR	(4.00)	0	0	48,000	48,000
Birth Certificate Surcharge \$10 GF	(10.00)	0	0	48,000	48,000
Birth Certificate-Children's Trust Fund \$3	(3)	0	0	48,000	48,000
Vital Record Base fee \$9 SGSR (state issued certificates)	(9.00)	0	0	4,800	4,800
Newborns Total		0	0	-859,200	-859,200
Older Children					
\$0 Birth Certificate (1 per parent/per record)	(26.00)	0	0	0	0
Vital Record Birth/Death Surcharge \$4 SGSR	(4.00)	0	0	20,000	20,000
Birth Certificate Surcharge \$10 GF	(10.00)	0	0	20,000	20,000
Birth Certificate-Children's Trust Fund \$3	(3)	0	0	20,000	20,000
Vital Record Base fee \$9 SGSR (state issued certificates)	(9.00)	0	0	2,000	2,000
Older Children Total	Total	0	0	-358,000	-358,000
Grand Total		0	0	-1,217,200	-1,217,200
Fiscal Tracking (Dollars in Thousands)		FY 2026	FY 2027	FY 2028	FY 2029
Impact:					
Expenditure		0	84	12	12
Revenue		0	0	-1,217	-1,217
Annual Cost (Savings)		0	84	1,229	1,229
Cumulative Cost (Savings)		0	84	1,313	2,542

Long-Term Fiscal Considerations

The bill would create a permanent decrease in the Office of Vital Records' budget. The fiscal impact represented in FY30 will continue as an ongoing annual revenue loss of \$948,700.

Local Fiscal Impact

Of the birth certificates issued statewide, about 90% are issued from county offices, who retain \$9 of the fee they collect per certificate issued to cover the cost of processing orders. Assuming this pattern continues under the new law, we estimate the local lost revenue from free birth certificates issued from county offices statewide to be about \$550,800 in FY28 and FY29 and \$429,300 each year thereafter.

References/Sources

Agency Contact:

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