

2026 Regular Session

SENATE BILL NO. 150

BY SENATOR BOUDREAUX

HEALTH DEPARTMENT. Provides relative to vital records stored by the Louisiana Department of Health. (gov sig)

1 AN ACT

2 To enact R.S. 40:42.1, relative to vital records; to provide for the scanning of documents;  
3 to provide for the creation of electronic files; to provide for the issuance of certified  
4 copies of documents; to provide for an effective date; and to provide for related  
5 matters.

6 Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

7 Section 1. R.S. 40:42.1 is hereby enacted to read as follows:

8 **§42.1. Scanning of original supporting documents and creation of electronic**  
9 **files; issuance of certified copies of evidentiary documents**

10 **A. The vital records registry and the state registrar may scan original**  
11 **documents submitted in support of vital records applications and in**  
12 **substantiation of information contained in the vital records registry,**  
13 **electronically store the scanned original documents, and return the original**  
14 **documents to the submitter. The scanned and electronically stored originals**  
15 **shall have the same authenticity as the paper originals.**

16 **B. The vital records registry and the state registrar may issue certified**  
17 **copies of documents in their custody in paper or electronic form, including but**

1            **not limited to those that are evidentiary in nature.**

2            Section 2. This Act shall become effective upon signature by the governor or, if not  
3 signed by the governor, upon expiration of the time for bills to become law without signature  
4 by the governor, as provided by Article III, Section 18 of the Constitution of Louisiana. If  
5 vetoed by the governor and subsequently approved by the legislature, this Act shall become  
6 effective on the day following such approval.

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The original instrument and the following digest, which constitutes no part of the legislative instrument, were prepared by Senate Legislative Services. The keyword, summary, and digest do not constitute part of the law or proof or indicia of legislative intent. [R.S. 1:13(B) and 24:177(E)]

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	DIGEST	
SB 150 Original	2026 Regular Session	Boudreaux

Present law establishes a central vital records registry within the office of public health and a state registrar of vital records to provide for the collection, maintenance, issuance, and preservation of all vital records covering births, deaths, marriages, divorce judgments, adoptions, and change of names.

Proposed law authorizes the vital records registry and state registrar to scan original documents submitted in support of vital records applications and in substantiation of information contained in the vital records registry, electronically store the scanned original documents, and return the original documents to the submitter.

Proposed law provides that scanned and electronically stored originals have the same authenticity as the paper originals.

Proposed law authorizes the vital records registry and state registrar to issue certified copies of documents in their custody in paper or electronic form, including but not limited to those that are evidentiary in nature.

Effective upon signature of the governor or lapse of time for gubernatorial action.

(Adds R.S. 40:42.1)