

VITALS COMMITTEE (LEGISLATIVE) REPORT – April 2010

Membership:

Betsy Browne Fairfield; Bernice Dixon, Vernon Beth Frugale, State Registrar of Vital Statistics (resigned January 8, 2009), Alan Jepson, Milford (did not seek re-election 2009); Tanya Lane, Newington (appointed February 2010); Carol Lee, Andover; Irene Masse, Meriden; Lisa Mountain, Registrar Middletown; Sheila Sedlak, Winsted; Chick Spinelli, Waterbury (term expired and replaced by Tanya Lane); and Kate Wall, Berlin

New Legislation

Public Act 09-232 An Act Concerning Revisions to the Department of Public Health Licensing Statutes:

Section 8 Appointment of at least two subregistrars. Subregistrars can issue cremation permits also.

Section 12 Issuance of cremation permits. Prohibits subregistrars (licensed as a funeral director or embalmer) from issuing the cremation permit to him/her self.

Section 18 Language concerning the duties of sextons is in one section.

Section 19 Language concerning disinterment is in one section also clarifies who can request a disinterment permit.

Section 232 Marriage license can only be issued in town of occurrence. Social Security numbers are to be added after the license is returned to the town of occurrence.

Public Act 09-13 An Act Implementing the Guarantee of Equal Protection Under the Constitution of the State for Same Sex Couples

- Marriage is the legal union between two people.
- People in a civil union can enter into marriage
- Exempts religious organizations if participating in this marriage ceremony violates the religious beliefs. This exemption does not apply to Justices of the Peace
- Repeal the laws governing civil unions as of October 1, 2010

PUBLIC ACTS SHOULD BE REFERRED TO FOR ACTUAL LANGUAGE AND DETAILS

New Fees

The State's Budget increased fees for certified copies effective October 1, 2009.

Electronic Death Registry System

Department of Health purchased a web-based Electronic Death Registry System (EDRS) and selected Net Smart as the vendor to implement the program. Minimum requirements were issued by Beth Frugale in an email dated August 28, 2009. Town Clerks will simply need an internet web-browser. Target date for Pilot towns March 2010 (date has been moved up slightly with the resignation of Beth Frugale).

Resignation of State Registrar

Resignation of Beth Frugale – the Committee was sorry to learn of Beth's resignation but understood the opportunities for advancement available in her new position. Julie Konopka is the acting registrar. At this time, the State has approved this position as being necessary to fill.

Special Meetings

Meeting with Genealogists on January 21, 2010

Meeting with Funeral Directors on March 3, 2010

Chairperson

In April 2010, Bernice Dixon will be the new Chairperson of the Vitals Committee.

Submitted by: Kate Wall, Chair