

Chapter 74

**(House Bill 900)**

AN ACT concerning

**Death Certificates – Fees – First Responders Killed in the Line of Duty**

FOR the purpose of prohibiting the Maryland Department of Health and local health departments from collecting fees for certified or abridged copies of death certificates for first responders killed in the line of duty if the copy is provided to the first responder’s surviving spouse or child for a certain purpose; and generally relating to fees for death certificates.

BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,  
Article – Health – General  
Section 4–217(a)(1) and 18–213.2(a)(1) and (7)  
Annotated Code of Maryland  
(2019 Replacement Volume and 2021 Supplement)

BY adding to  
Article – Health – General  
Section 4–217(c)(6)(iii)  
Annotated Code of Maryland  
(2019 Replacement Volume and 2021 Supplement)

BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,  
Article – Health – General  
Section 4–217(d)  
Annotated Code of Maryland  
(2019 Replacement Volume and 2021 Supplement)

SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND,  
That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

**Article – Health – General**

4–217.

(a) (1) Except as provided in subsection (b) of this section, the Secretary shall provide, on request, any person authorized by regulations adopted under this subtitle with a certified or abridged copy of a birth, death, or fetal death certificate registered under this subtitle or of the certificate of a marriage performed after June 1, 1951.

(c) (6) **(III) THE DEPARTMENT MAY NOT COLLECT A FEE FOR A CERTIFIED OR ABRIDGED COPY OF A DEATH CERTIFICATE OF A FIRST RESPONDER,**

**AS DEFINED IN § 18–213.2 OF THIS ARTICLE, KILLED IN THE LINE OF DUTY, IF THE COPY IS ISSUED TO A SURVIVING SPOUSE OR CHILD OF THE FIRST RESPONDER AND WILL BE USED IN CONNECTION WITH A CLAIM FOR A DEPENDENT OR BENEFICIARY OF THE FIRST RESPONDER.**

(d) (1) (I) [Any] **EXCEPT AS PROVIDED IN SUBPARAGRAPH (II) OF THIS PARAGRAPH, ANY** local health department may set and collect a fee for processing and issuing a death certificate that covers the administrative costs of providing this service.

**(II) A LOCAL HEALTH DEPARTMENT MAY NOT COLLECT A FEE FOR PROCESSING AND ISSUING A CERTIFIED OR ABRIDGED COPY OF A DEATH CERTIFICATE OF A FIRST RESPONDER, AS DEFINED IN § 18–213.2 OF THIS ARTICLE, KILLED IN THE LINE OF DUTY, IF THE COPY IS ISSUED TO A SURVIVING SPOUSE OR CHILD OF THE FIRST RESPONDER AND WILL BE USED IN CONNECTION WITH A CLAIM FOR A DEPENDENT OR BENEFICIARY OF THE FIRST RESPONDER.**

(2) The fee set by the local health department for processing and issuing a death certificate under this subsection may not exceed the actual costs to the local health department for processing and issuing a death certificate.

18–213.2.

(a) (1) In this section the following words have the meanings indicated.

(7) “First responder” means a:

- (i) Firefighter;
- (ii) Emergency medical technician;
- (iii) Rescue squad member;
- (iv) Law enforcement officer;
- (v) Correctional officer; or
- (vi) Sworn member of the State Fire Marshal’s office.

SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect October 1, 2022.

**Approved by the Governor, April 12, 2022.**