

House Bill 284

By: Representatives Hatfield of the 177th and Lindsey of the 54th

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT

1 To amend Code Section 31-10-25 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to
2 disclosure of information contained in vital records, so as to provide that social security
3 numbers shall be redacted from vital records and withheld from public inspection; to provide
4 for exceptions; to provide for related matters; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other
5 purposes.

6 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

7 **SECTION 1.**

8 Code Section 31-10-25 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to disclosure of
9 information contained in vital records, is amended by revising the Code section as follows:
10 "31-10-25.

11 (a) To protect the integrity of vital records, to ensure their proper use, and to ensure the
12 efficient and proper administration of the system of vital records, it shall be unlawful for
13 any person to permit inspection of, or to disclose information contained in vital records or
14 to copy or issue a copy of all or part of any such record except as authorized by this chapter
15 and by regulation or by order of a court of competent jurisdiction. Regulations adopted
16 under this Code section shall provide for adequate standards of security and confidentiality
17 of vital records. The provisions of this subsection shall not apply to court records or
18 indexes of marriage licenses, divorces, and annulments of marriages filed as provided by
19 law.

20 (b) The department shall authorize by regulation the disclosure of information contained
21 in vital records for research purposes; provided, however, that, with the exception of
22 certified copies provided under Code Section 31-10-26, social security numbers contained
23 in vital records shall be redacted and withheld from public inspection and copying.

24 (c) Appeals from decisions of custodians of vital records, as designated under authority
25 of Code Section 31-10-6, who refuse to disclose information or to permit inspection or
26 copying of records as prescribed by this Code section and regulations issued under this

1 Code section shall be made to the state registrar whose decisions shall be binding upon
2 such custodians.

3 (d) Information in vital records indicating that a birth occurred out of wedlock shall not
4 be disclosed except as provided by regulation or upon the order of a court of competent
5 jurisdiction.

6 (e) When 100 years have elapsed after the date of birth or 75 years have elapsed after the
7 date of death or application for marriage, or divorce, dissolution of marriage, or annulment,
8 the records of these events in the custody of the state registrar shall be transferred to the
9 State Archives and such information shall be made available in accordance with regulations
10 which shall provide for the continued safekeeping of the records.

11 (f) Official copies of records of deaths, applications for marriages and marriage
12 certificates, divorces, dissolutions of marriages, and annulments located in the counties
13 shall remain accessible to the public. While in the temporary custody of the probate court
14 before transmission to the state registrar or confirmation of transmission or receipt,
15 application supplement-marriage report forms shall not be available for public inspection
16 or copying or admissible in any court of law."

17 **SECTION 2.**

18 All laws and parts of laws in conflict with this Act are repealed.