

**Subject** Access to vital records by agencies operated by Indian tribes

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## Overview

The creation and maintenance of vital records (including records of births, deaths, stillbirths, marriages, dissolutions, and annulments) and access to these records is governed by the Vital Records Act, sections 144.211 to 144.227. This bill allows a government agency operated by an Indian tribe to access certain vital records and associated data for governmental purposes, in the same manner and for the same purposes that other federal, state, and local agencies can access these vital records.

## Summary

Section	Description
1	<p><b>Data about births.</b></p> <p>Amends § 144.225, subd. 2. Amends a subdivision governing access to birth data, to allow:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• a tribal health department to obtain (1) contact information for a mother who was not married to a child's father when the child was conceived and born and (2) the child's date of birth (current law allows this information to be disclosed to a county social services department or a public health member of a family services collaborative); and</li><li>• a tribal child support program to access birth records for child support enforcement purposes.</li></ul>
2	<p><b>Health data associated with birth registration.</b></p> <p>Amends § 144.225, subd. 2a. Allows the commissioner of health to disclose to a tribal health department, health data associated with a birth registration that identifies a mother or child at high risk for serious disease, disability, or delay (current law allows the commissioner to disclose this information to a community health board).</p>
3	<p><b>Certified birth or death record.</b></p> <p>Amends § 144.225, subd. 7. Directs the state or local office of vital records to issue a certified birth or death record or statement of no vital record found to any tribal governmental agency upon request, if the certified vital record is needed for the</p>

Section	Description
	governmental agency to perform its duties (current law allows local, state, and federal governmental agencies to obtain certified vital records needed to perform their duties).



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