**An Act Regarding Indices of Vital Records**

**Be it enacted by the People of the State of Maine as follows:**

**Sec.** **1. 22 MRSA §2706, sub-§9** is enacted to read:

**9.** **Indices.**  Indices to certificates and records of marriage, intentions to marry, domestic partnerships and death, including fetal death, from 1892 to the present at the municipal and state levels are open to the public without restriction. Indices to certificates and records of birth at the municipal and state levels are open to the public after a period of 75 years from the date of the birth. The state registrar or the clerk of a municipality as appropriate shall monitor the public's access to indices to certificates and records of birth to ensure that access to information regarding births that occurred less than 75 years ago is prohibited.

The state registrar shall enter into a long-term nonexclusive contract with a private entity experienced in maintaining genealogical research databases to create, maintain and update at no direct cost to the State an online index to certificates and records of birth, marriage, intentions to marry, domestic partnerships and death, including fetal death, in exchange for allowing the private entity to also provide that index to its subscribers and customers. The online index must include the names of persons appearing on the certificate or record, the municipality in which the certificate or record was recorded, the date of the event and the certificate number for the certificate or record number for the record. The online index must cover in its entirety the time period specified under this subsection.

**SUMMARY**

This bill provides that indices to certificates and records of marriage, intentions to marry, domestic partnerships and death, including fetal death, from 1892 to the present at the municipal and state levels are open to the public without restriction, and that indices to certificates and records of birth at the municipal and state levels are open to the public after a period of 75 years from the date of the birth. The bill also requires the state registrar to enter into a long-term nonexclusive contract with a private entity experienced in maintaining genealogical research databases to create, maintain and update at no direct cost to the State an online index to certificates and records of birth, marriage, intentions to marry, domestic partnerships and death, including fetal death, in exchange for allowing the private entity to also provide that index to its subscribers and customers.