

HCS SB 21 -- ADOPTION RECORDS AND PUTATIVE FATHER REGISTRY FUND

Currently, the Children's Division within the Department of Social Services maintains a registry whereby birth parents and adopted adults may indicate their desire to be contacted. Adopted adults must petition a court to obtain identifying information regarding their biological parents. This bill allows courts to directly disclose identifying information to an adopted adult upon their written request if their biological parents or adult siblings have consented in writing to the disclosure. Adult siblings are also allowed to participate in the registry. The definitions for "adopted adult" and "adult sibling" are changed to include those who are 18 years of age or older, and the definition of "adopted child" is changed to include any adopted person who is younger than 18 years of age.

The bill creates the Putative Father Registry Fund in the state treasury for the deposit of moneys received from the filing fees of an adoption petition to be used solely for the administration of the putative father registry. Moneys in the fund will not revert to general revenue at the end of the biennium. The department is allowed to establish and implement an advertising campaign to recruit adoptive and foster care families and is required to establish a 24-hour, toll-free telephone number to assist persons inquiring about becoming adoptive or foster parents.