

## HB 107 -- Adoption Proceedings

Sponsor: Berry

This bill allows the written consent to an adoption to be acknowledged in the presence of the attorney representing the person giving consent and witnessed by a hospital social worker, the guardian ad litem, or a child-placing agency social worker. Currently, the written consent must be witnessed by the signatures of a least two adult persons who are not the prospective adoptive parents or any attorney representing a party to the proceeding.

The written consent to an adoption by the birth mother of a child must not be executed anytime before the child is 24 hours old, instead of the current 48 hours old.

The bill allows a juvenile court, upon application and once a child is at least one day old, instead of the current at least two days old, to permit a parent to waive the necessity of his or her consent to a future adoption of the child. This waiver of consent may be made in the presence of the attorney representing the person giving consent and must be witnessed by the signatures of a hospital social worker, the guardian ad litem, or a child-placing agency social worker.

The bill reduces the current required period that a child to be adopted must have been in the lawful and actual custody of the petitioner from six months to three months before the adoption is finalized.