

HCS SS SCS SB 351 -- ADOPTION RECORDS

SPONSOR: Lamping (Barnes)

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "do pass" by the Committee on Judiciary by a vote of 10 to 0.

This substitute changes the laws regarding adoption records. In its main provisions, the substitute:

(1) Allows nonidentifying biological or sibling information to be furnished by the child-placing agency or the juvenile court upon written request to an adopted adult's lineal descendant if the adopted adult is deceased;

(2) Revises the provisions regarding an adopted adult obtaining identifying information of the undisclosed biological parents by making a request to the circuit court having original jurisdiction by allowing the identifying information to also be disclosed to an adopted adult's lineal descendant if the adopted adult is deceased;

(3) Requires only the biological parents to be notified about a request for identifying information. Currently, the adopted adult must make a request and follow a specified procedure for obtaining consent from both the adoptive and biological parents if prior consent has not been given through the child-placing agency or juvenile court personnel;

(4) Specifies that if the biological parents are deceased, the court must disclose the identifying information of the biological parents to the adopted adult or the adopted adult's lineal descendants if the adopted adult is deceased; and

(5) Removes the provision that conditions the release of identifying information to an adopted adult upon a finding by the court that the information is necessary for urgent health-related purposes.

FISCAL NOTE: No impact on state funds in FY 2012, FY 2013, and FY 2014.

PROponents: Supporters say that the bill will assist adoptees in gathering more information about their biological parents including important medical information.

Testifying for the bill were Senator Lamping; Laura Long; and Missouri Catholic Conference.

OPponents: There was no opposition voiced to the committee.