

HB 1662 -- ADOPTIONS

SPONSOR: Spencer

Section 453.026, RSMo

Currently, before a prospective adoptive parent may accept physical custody of a child, the person placing the child for adoption must furnish to the court, the guardian ad litem, and the prospective adoptive parent a written report regarding the child. This bill requires the report to be furnished only if the child being placed for adoption is six months of age or older.

Section 453.030

Currently, written consent to an adoption by the birth parent must not be executed anytime before the child is 48 hours old. The bill specifies that the written consent must not be executed before the child is 24 hours old.

Section 453.077

Currently, a child must have been placed with the petitioner for a six-month period before the court may enter the adoption decree. The bill reduces that placement period to three months. The placement period may be waived if the child sought to be adopted is under six months of age at the time the petitioner obtains lawful and actual custody of the child.

Section 453.110

The bill specifies that a parent cannot be prohibited from placing a child with another individual for care as part of a pre-adoption placement if the right to supervise the care of the child and to resume custody is retained until superseded by any court order regarding the legal or physical custody of the child.

Section 453.700

Only a licensed attorney or a child placing agency licensed under Missouri law may place or cause to be placed an advertisement or listing of the attorney's or agency's telephone number or other contact information in a telephone directory or other advertising distributed within the State of Missouri that states or implies that a child is offered or wanted for adoption or the attorney or agency is able to place, locate, or receive a child for adoption. The bill specifies other information that the advertisement must contain. Any person who knowingly or intentionally violates these provisions will be guilty of a class A misdemeanor.

This bill is the same as HB 546 (2015).