

SECOND REGULAR SESSION

HOUSE BILL NO. 1481

92ND GENERAL ASSEMBLY

INTRODUCED BY REPRESENTATIVES SAGER (Sponsor), HARRIS (23), CARNAHAN, JOLLY, LeVOTA, BURNETT, WILDBERGER, BROOKS, YAEGER, KRATKY, MEINERS, KUESSNER, YOUNG, JETTON AND WILSON (42) (Co-sponsors).

Read 1st time February 12, 2004, and copies ordered printed.

STEPHEN S. DAVIS, Chief Clerk

3326L.03I

AN ACT

To repeal section 191.975, RSMo, and to enact in lieu thereof one new section relating to adoption awareness.

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the state of Missouri, as follows:

Section A. Section 191.975, RSMo, is repealed and one new section enacted in lieu thereof, to be known as section 191.975, to read as follows:

191.975. 1. This section shall be known and may be cited as the "Adoption Awareness Law".

2. To raise public awareness and to educate the public, the department of social services, with the assistance of the department of health and senior services, [shall be responsible for] **may**:

(1) [Collecting and distributing] **Collect and distribute** resource materials to educate the public about foster care and adoption;

(2) [Developing and distributing] **Develop and distribute** educational materials, including but not limited to videos, brochures and other media as part of a comprehensive public relations campaign about the positive option of adoption and foster care. The materials [shall] **may** include, but not be limited to, information about:

(a) The benefits of adoption and foster care;

(b) Adoption and foster care procedures;

(c) Means of financing the cost of adoption and foster care, including but not limited to adoption subsidies, foster care payments and special needs adoption tax credits;

EXPLANATION — Matter enclosed in bold faced brackets [thus] in this bill is not enacted and is intended to be omitted in the law. Matter in boldface type in the above law is proposed language.

- 16 (d) Options for birth parents in choosing adoptive parents;
- 17 (e) Protection for and rights of birth parents and adoptive parents prior to and following
18 the adoption;
- 19 (f) Location of adoption and foster care agencies;
- 20 (g) Information regarding various state health and social service programs for pregnant
21 women and children, including but not limited to medical assistance programs and temporary
22 assistance for needy families (TANF); and
- 23 (h) Referrals to appropriate counseling services, including but not be limited to
24 counseling services for parents who are considering retaining custody of their children, placing
25 their children for adoption, or becoming foster or adoptive parents; but excluding any referrals
26 for abortion or to abortion facilities;
- 27 (3) [Making] **Make** such educational materials available through state and local public
28 health clinics, public hospitals, family planning clinics, abortion facilities as defined in section
29 188.015, RSMo, maternity homes as defined in section 135.600, RSMo, child-placing agencies
30 licensed pursuant to sections 210.481 to 210.536, RSMo, attorneys whose practice involves
31 private adoptions, in vitro fertilization clinics and private physicians for distribution to their
32 patients who request such educational materials. Such materials [shall] **may** also be available
33 to the public through the department of social services' Internet web site; [and]
- 34 (4) [Establishing] **Establish and implement an ongoing advertising campaign for the**
35 **recruitment of adoptive and foster care families, with a special emphasis on the**
36 **recruitment of qualified adoptive and foster care families for special needs children. Such**
37 **advertising campaign may utilize, but shall not be limited to, the following media:**
38 **television, radio, outdoor advertising, newspaper, magazines and other print media, web**
39 **sites, and the Internet. The department may contract with professional advertising**
40 **agencies or other professional entities to conduct such advertising campaign on behalf of**
41 **the department; and**
- 42 (5) **Establish** a toll-free telephone number for information on adoption and foster care,
43 **and to answer questions and assist persons inquiring about becoming adoptive or foster**
44 **parents.**
- 45 3. The provisions of this section shall be subject to appropriations.
- 46 4. The department of social services [shall] **may** promulgate rules for the implementation
47 of this section in accordance with chapter 536, RSMo.