

## HB 1907 -- Adoption Records

Sponsor: Stevenson

This bill changes the laws regarding adoption records. For adoptions instituted or completed on or after August 28, 2010, the bill:

(1) Allows any adopted person who is at least 18 years of age to submit an application to the State Registrar and, upon receiving the application, be issued a copy of his or her original, unaltered birth certificate and adoption records. Currently, the registrar can only open an adoption file if a certified copy of a court order has been issued;

(2) Allows an adopted person, the adopted person's attorney, or the adopted person's descendants, if the adopted person is deceased, to obtain a copy of the adopted person's original birth certificate from the State Registrar upon written application and the appropriate proof of identification. The adopted person must be at least 18 years of age and have been born in Missouri;

(3) Requires the State Registrar to develop and, upon request, provide each birth parent with a contact preference form and a medical history form. If a contact preference form is filed with the registrar, a medical history form must also be filed;

(4) Requires the State Registrar, upon receipt of the completed contact preference and medical history forms, to attach the forms to the original birth certificate of the adopted person. Completed contact preference and medical history forms have the same level of confidentiality as the original birth certificate; and

(5) Requires the adopted person to agree in writing to abide by the birth parent's preference stated in the contact preference form if it is attached to the adopted person's original birth certificate. The State Registrar must also provide a medical history form if it was completed by the birth parent.

For adoptions instituted or completed prior to August 28, 2010, the bill:

(1) Requires a copy of the medical history form, which has had all identifying information redacted, to be issued to the adopted person;

(2) Requires the State Registrar to release the original birth certificate only if the birth mother is deceased. If the birth mother is not deceased, the registrar must, within three months

of application by the adopted person, make reasonable efforts to contact the birth mother via telephone, personally and confidentially, to obtain the birth mother's consent or denial to release the original birth certificate. The registrar may charge the actual costs of the search for the birth mother to the adopted person; and

(3) Allows the adopted person, if the birth mother could not be contacted, to re-apply for a copy of his or her original birth certificate within one year from the end of the three-month period during which the attempted contact with the birth mother was previously made. The State Register must not release the certificate of birth until the birth mother submits a subsequent written consent for release.