

HCS HB 1713 -- ADOPTEE RIGHTS

SPONSOR: Phillips

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "Do Pass with HCS" by the Special Committee to Improve the Care and Well-being of Young People by a vote of 9 to 0. Voted "Do Pass" by the Rules- Administrative Oversight Committee by a vote of 12 to 1.

This bill allows a birth parent or adoptee to request a contact preference form that will accompany the birth certificate of an adopted person. Currently, only a birth parent may request the form. A contact preference form states whether the birth parent or adoptee would like to be contacted. A birth parent may also request a medical history form to provide medical history to an adoptee.

If one birth parent indicates that he or she would prefer not to be contacted, then his or her identifying information will be redacted from the adoptee's birth certificate and from the medical history form. The bill allows this information to be redacted for one year from the date of relinquishment.

If an adopted person is deceased, his or her descendants have the right to obtain a copy of the adoptee's birth certificate, contact form, and medical history form.

PROPONENTS: Supporters say that this bill would allow adoptees to access their birth certificate or medical history without a court order and unnecessary expenses.

Testifying for the bill were Representative Phillips and FosterAdopt Connect.

OPPONENTS: There was no opposition voiced to the committee.