

House _____ Amendment NO. _____

Offered By

1 AMEND House Committee Substitute for House Bill Nos. 1123 & 1221, Page 10, Section 453.030,
2 Lines 76-88, by deleting said lines and inserting in lieu thereof the following:

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4 "11. A birth parent, including a birth parent less than eighteen years of age, shall have the
5 right to legal representation and payment of any reasonable legal fees incurred throughout the
6 adoption process. In addition, the court may appoint an attorney to represent a birth parent if:

7 (1) A birth parent requests representation;

8 (2) The court finds that hiring an attorney to represent such birth parent would cause a
9 financial hardship for the birth parent; and

10 (3) The birth parent is not already represented by counsel.

11 12. Except in cases where the court determines that the adoptive parents are unable to pay
12 reasonable attorney fees and appoints pro bono counsel for the birth parents, the court shall order the
13 costs of the attorney fees incurred pursuant to subsection 11 of this section to be paid by the
14 prospective adoptive parents or the child-placing agency.

15 13. The court shall receive and acknowledge a written consent to adoption properly"; and

16
17 Further amend said bill by amending the title, enacting clause, and intersectional references
18 accordingly.

Action Taken _____ Date _____