

HB 281 -- ADOPTION PROCEEDINGS

SPONSOR: White

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "Do Pass" by the Standing Committee on Civil and Criminal Proceedings by a vote of 10 to 2.

This bill requires a court conducting a final adoption hearing to determine whether the court has received and reviewed an investigation report required under Section 453.070, RSMo, if any, and an investigation and social study required under Section 211.455, if any.

By January 1, 2016, the Missouri Supreme Court must develop a standardized form to be used in all adoption cases which includes a checklist to verify that all the documents and procedures required by law have been submitted, followed, and reviewed by the judge prior to the entry of a final order. The form and attachments must be included as part of the adoption record.

PROPONENTS: Supporters say that this will ensure that all of the proper procedures are followed and will prevent failures of the adoption process or technical errors in cases that are so tragic to families.

Testifying for the bill was Representative White.

OPPONENTS: Those who oppose the bill say that this bill will make adoptions more difficult and will create problems for the courts.

Testifying against the bill was Ann Silea, Lutheran Family And Children's Services Of Missouri.