

## HB 2245 -- BIRTH CERTIFICATES

SPONSOR: Swan

This bill specifies that an adopted individual, the adopted individual's attorney, or the adopted individual's descendants, if the adopted person is deceased, may obtain a copy of the adopted individual's original certificate of birth from the state registrar in accordance with specified provisions. In order to receive a copy of his or her original certificate of birth, the adopted individual must:

- (1) Be at least 18 years of age;
- (2) Have been born in this state; and
- (3) File a written application and provide appropriate proof of identification with the state registrar.

The state registrar may require a waiting period and impose a fee for issuance of the uncertified copy. The fees and waiting period imposed must be identical to the fees and waiting period generally imposed on an individual seeking their own certificate of birth. Upon receipt of a written application, proof of identification, and fulfillment of specified requirements, the state registrar must issue an uncertified copy of the unaltered original certificate of birth to the applicant. The copy of the certificate of birth must have the following statement printed on it: "for informational purposes only - not to be used for establishing identity."

If the birth mother is deceased or cannot be found, the state registrar must notify the adopted individual that the copy of the original certificate of birth must be released one year from the date of the initial application. The adopted individual must submit a subsequent written application for release of the certificate of birth and notification to the state registrar that one year has passed. If the birth mother is not deceased, the state registrar must, within three months of application by the adopted individual, 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 certificate of birth.

The state registrar may charge actual costs to the adopted individual for the cost of searching for the birth mother. If the state registrar is unable to contact the birth mother within three months, the state registrar is prohibited from releasing the certificate of birth. The adopted individual may re-apply for a copy of his or her original certificate of birth once every two

years from the end of the three-month period during which the state registrar attempted to contact the birth mother. The state registrar may not release the certificate of birth under this subdivision until the birth mother submits a subsequent written consent for release, dies, or cannot be found in which case specified procedures apply.