

HCS HB 1599 -- ADOPTEE RIGHTS ACT (Phillips)

COMMITTEE OF ORIGIN: Standing Committee on Children and Families

This bill specifies that an adopted individual, his or her attorney, or descendants may apply for an original copy of his or her birth certificate. The applicant must be at least 18 years of age; was born in this state; and provide appropriate proof of identification to the state registrar.

The state registrar may impose a waiting period and fee that are identical to the fees and waiting period for a non-adopted birth certificate request. The uncertified copy of the original birth must have the following statement printed on it: "For genealogical purposes only - not to be used for establishing identity".

The bill creates a contact preference form and medical history form to be completed by a birth parent and attached to the original birth certificate of the adopted person. The bill delineates processes to be followed for each form, when an adopted person is able to obtain a copy of a redacted original birth certificate, and when an adopted person is able to obtain an unaltered original birth certificate. The bill requires a public notification period that such forms exist, and prohibits the provision of original birth certificates under the provisions of the bill before May 1, 2017, unless the adopted person was born before 1941.

This bill is similar to HB 647 (2015).