

HCS HB 1714 -- ADOPTION RECORDS

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 12 to 0. Voted "Do Pass" by the Rules- Administrative Oversight Committee by a vote of 13 to 0.

This bill gives an adopted adult, biological parent, adoptive parent, or the lineal descendants of an adopted adult the ability to make a written request to the court to disclose information identifying the adopted adult's biological parents. Currently, only the adopted adult or the adopted adult's lineal descendants could make such request.

If the court is unable to notify a biological parent within three months, the biological parent's identifying information will be disclosed. If the court is able to notify the biological parent within three months or if the biological parent is deceased, the court shall disclose the biological parent's identifying information, including copies of all documents in the adoption file and any personal items or correspondence, as long as the other biological parent is unknown, cannot be notified, is deceased, or has filed an affidavit authorizing the release of identifying information.

PROPONENTS: Supporters say that this bill will allow an adopted adult to obtain information regarding their biological parents and personal items retained by the court, as well as address inconsistencies between counties.

Testifying for the bill was Representative Phillips.

OPPONENTS: There was no opposition voiced to the committee.