

HB 2426 -- ADOPTION

SPONSOR: Walsh

This bill permits a guardian ad litem or a private attorney filing a petition for adoption to petition the juvenile court to terminate the rights of a parent or to receive specific consent to adopt or waiver of consent to adoption. This bill also repeals existing provisions relating to the form and manner of the consent to adopt or waiver of consent to adoption.

Currently, written consent to an adoption shall be required from the mother of the child and the presumptive or putative father or the child's current adoptive parents or other legally recognized mother and father. This bill requires written consent from all three categories of individuals. The court shall receive and acknowledge a properly executed consent to adoption when such consent is in the best interests of the child.

This bill permits out of state adoptive petitioners to appear by their attorney or by telephone or video conference rather than in person.

This bill removes a requirement that a court consider whether the adoption would be in compliance with the Uniform Child Custody Jurisdiction Act.

Finally, this bill permits adoptive parents and the birth parents of a child to enter into a written post adoption contact agreement to allow contact, communication, and the exchange of photographs after the adoption. The court shall enforce an agreement unless doing so would not be in the best interest of the child.

This bill is the same as SB 992 (2018).