



Connecticut Department of Public Health

**Testimony Presented Before the Planning and
Development Committee**

March 15, 2019

**Commissioner Raul Pino, M.D., M.P.H.
860-509-7101**

**Senate Bill #972 – An Act Concerning Access to Original Birth Records by Adult Adopted
Persons**

The Department of Public Health (DPH) provides the following information in regards to Senate Bill # 972, which will allow any adult adopted person, or such person's children or grandchildren, access to a copy of the adopted person's original birth certificate. Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this important issue.

Currently, only adoptees born on or after October 1, 1983 are eligible to receive their original birth certificate from the Department. October 1, 1983 is the cutoff date because that was the date on which the adoption form changed in the State of Connecticut. On that date a clause was added to the adoption form stating that the birth parents' identities may be disclosed. The form was silent on the issue of identity disclosure before October 1, 1983, which today primarily impacts the group of adoptees whose adoptions took place during the 1940s, 1950s and 1960s.

The Department has concerns related to the fiscal impact of this legislation. The Department anticipates that requests for additional original birth certificates will be very high, resulting in heavy workloads for the Department's Vital Records staff. This additional workload could not be absorbed within current resources. Should this bill move forward without the Department being provided additional resources, processing delays could take place, causing persons requesting other types of vital records to wait for longer periods of time.

Thank you for your consideration of this information.