
OLR Bill Analysis

HB 6105

AN ACT CONCERNING ACCESS TO ORIGINAL BIRTH CERTIFICATES BY ADULT ADOPTED PERSONS.

SUMMARY

This bill expands access to birth certificates for adopted persons age 18 and older and their adult children or grandchildren. It allows them to obtain an uncertified copy of the adoptee's original birth certificate upon request. Current law provides this access only for adoptions finalized on or after October 1, 1983.

For adoptions before that date, current law allows access to the original certificate by these individuals only through a court order. If the birth parents are alive, the court may issue the order only with their consent, or in certain circumstances, the consent of a legal representative or guardian ad litem.

The bill also transfers, from the Department of Public Health (DPH) to municipalities, the responsibility to issue the original birth certificates upon an eligible individual's request. Specifically, it requires the registrar of vital statistics in the municipality of the adopted individual's birth to issue the uncertified copy of the certificate to the adoptee age 18 or older or his or her adult child or grandchild. The registrar must do so within 30 days after a written request by these individuals. Current law does not set a timeframe for DPH to issue these birth certificates.

Additionally, the bill extends to January 1, 2027, the requirement for the Department of Children and Families (DCF) to report annually to the Public Health Committee on the number of birth parent contact preference and health history forms filed with DCF (see BACKGROUND). Under current law, this requirement expired on January 1, 2021.

The bill also makes conforming and technical changes, including eliminating an expired requirement for DPH to annually report on the number of adult adoptee birth certificates issued each year.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2021, and conforming changes on court petitions apply to petitions filed on and after July 1, 2020.

BACKGROUND

Adoptee Birth Certificates

In most cases, DPH seals the original birth certificate when a court notifies it that a child born in Connecticut has been adopted. It prepares a new certificate substituting the adoptive parents' names for those appearing on the original certificate (CGS § 7-53).

Contact Preference and Health History Forms

By law, a biological parent may complete a DCF form indicating whether the parent wants to be contacted by his or her adopted adult child or the adoptee's adult children or grandchildren. When receiving a request for a contact preference form, DCF must also provide the parent with a form on which to record his or her health history information (CGS § 17a-60a).

COMMITTEE ACTION

Planning and Development Committee

Joint Favorable

Yea 26 Nay 0 (03/02/2021)