



2005 ASSEMBLY BILL 688

September 26, 2005 - Introduced by Representatives FREESE, JESKEWITZ, GRIGSBY, KERKMAN, BALLWEG, TRAVIS, LEMAHIEU, F. LASEE, LEHMAN, WOOD, HAHN, HINES, SHERIDAN, KREIBICH, PRIDEMORE, OTT and BERCEAU, cosponsored by Senators KEDZIE, LASSA, DARLING, ERPENBACH, TAYLOR, REYNOLDS and COWLES. Referred to Committee on Family Law.

- 1 **AN ACT to amend** 48.433 (3) (intro.) of the statutes; **relating to:** the age at which
2 an adoptee may obtain identifying information about his or her birth parents.

Analysis by the Legislative Reference Bureau

Current law provides a procedure by which a person whose birth parent's rights have been terminated, or who has been adopted, in this state may require the Department of Health and Family Services (DHFS) to provide the person, after the person reaches 21 years of age, with the person's original birth certificate and any information that is available to DHFS regarding the identity and location of the person's birth parents. DHFS may provide the identity and location of a birth parent only if DHFS has on file an unrevoked affidavit from each known birth parent authorizing DHFS to disclose that information. If DHFS does not have on file an unrevoked affidavit from each known birth parent, DHFS must search for each birth parent who has not filed an affidavit. Upon locating a birth parent, DHFS must give the birth parent an opportunity to file an affidavit. If after a search a known birth parent cannot be located, DHFS may disclose identifying information concerning that birth parent if the other birth parent has filed an unrevoked affidavit. If a birth parent who has not filed an affidavit is known to be deceased, DHFS must so inform the requester, but may not provide the identity of that birth parent. This bill lowers from 21 to 18 the age at which a person may require the DHFS to provide the person with his or her original birth certificate and information about the person's birth parents.

