

2007 SENATE BILL 477

February 12, 2008 – Introduced by Senators LAZICH, DARLING and ROESSLER, cosponsored by Representatives VOS, KLEEFISCH and OWENS. Referred to Committee on Tax Fairness and Family Prosperity.

1 **AN ACT** *to amend* 48.93 (1d) of the statutes; **relating to:** disclosure of adoption
2 records for purposes of determining the availability of a placement for a child
3 with an adoptive parent or proposed adoptive parent of a sibling of the child.

Analysis by the Legislative Reference Bureau

Current law requires the Department of Health and Family Services (DHFS), a county department of human services or social services (county department), or a child welfare agency to include in a child's permanency plan, which is a plan designed to ensure that the child quickly attains a placement or home providing long-term stability, a statement as to the availability of a safe and appropriate placement for the child with a foster parent, adoptive parent, or proposed adoptive parent of a sibling of the child. Current law also requires DHFS, a county department, or a child welfare agency, before placing for adoption a child who has a sibling who has been adopted or has been placed for adoption, to consider the availability of a placement for adoption with an adoptive parent or proposed adoptive parent of a sibling of the child who is identified in the child's permanency plan or who is otherwise known by DHFS, the county department, or the child welfare agency.

This bill permits records and papers pertaining to an adoption proceeding to be disclosed for purposes of determining the availability of a placement for a child with an adoptive parent or proposed adoptive parent of a sibling of the child. Currently, those records and papers must be kept in a separate locked file and may not be

