

Fiscal Estimate - 2021 Session

Original
 Updated
 Corrected
 Supplemental

LRB Number 21-4172/1	Introduction Number SB-483
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Description
 access to an original impounded birth record

Fiscal Effect

State:

No State Fiscal Effect
 Indeterminate

<input type="checkbox"/> Increase Existing Appropriations <input type="checkbox"/> Decrease Existing Appropriations <input type="checkbox"/> Create New Appropriations	<input type="checkbox"/> Increase Existing Revenues <input type="checkbox"/> Decrease Existing Revenues	<input type="checkbox"/> Increase Costs - May be possible to absorb within agency's budget <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Decrease Costs
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Local:

No Local Government Costs
 Indeterminate

1. <input type="checkbox"/> Increase Costs <input type="checkbox"/> Permissive <input type="checkbox"/> Mandatory 2. <input type="checkbox"/> Decrease Costs <input type="checkbox"/> Permissive <input type="checkbox"/> Mandatory	3. <input type="checkbox"/> Increase Revenue <input type="checkbox"/> Permissive <input type="checkbox"/> Mandatory 4. <input type="checkbox"/> Decrease Revenue <input type="checkbox"/> Permissive <input type="checkbox"/> Mandatory	5. Types of Local Government Units Affected <input type="checkbox"/> Towns <input type="checkbox"/> Village <input type="checkbox"/> Cities <input type="checkbox"/> Counties <input type="checkbox"/> Others <u>0</u> <input type="checkbox"/> School Districts <input type="checkbox"/> WTCS Districts
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Fund Sources Affected	Affected Ch. 20 Appropriations
<input type="checkbox"/> GPR <input type="checkbox"/> FED <input type="checkbox"/> PRO <input type="checkbox"/> PRS <input type="checkbox"/> SEG <input type="checkbox"/> SEGS	

Agency/Prepared By	Authorized Signature	Date
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Fiscal Estimate Narratives

DCF 8/27/2021

LRB Number	21-4172/1	Introduction Number	SB-483	Estimate Type	Original
Description access to an original impounded birth record					

Assumptions Used in Arriving at Fiscal Estimate

This bill requires the state registrar to provide any person over the age of 18 whose original birth record has been impounded with unrestricted access to the person's original unaltered birth record and issue that person an uncertified copy of the original unaltered birth record. In doing so, the bill expands access to an adult adoptee's original, impounded birth record. Under current law, this access was only granted with consent of the birth parent(s) via a signed affidavit or if the birth parents(s) are deceased.

Current Wisconsin law provides adult adoptees age 18 or older access to their adoption records. Living birth parents have the option of releasing their identity and contact information to their birth children or choosing to remain anonymous, otherwise with no consent on file, adoptees are eligible to receive social and non-identifying information about their birth parent(s), such as: general facts about the birth parent(s) and medical history. Adult adoptees also have full access to their adoption records if both parents are deceased. Under current law, approximately 50% of living birth parents contacted via the Adoption Records Search Program decline to release their identities.

This bill modifies current law to remove DCF's role in assisting adoptees in obtaining their impounded birth certificates if they are eligible to receive it. In effect, this bill provides an alternative route for adoptees to obtain the identity of their birth parent(s) (the birth father is not always listed) by providing unrestricted access to their original unaltered birth certificate via the state registrar. The adoptee may still wish to request additional records via DCF's Adoption Records Search Program (ARSP). Under currently law, the ARSP provides a streamlined process for requestors for adoption records and information. Staff search specialists are equipped to have sensitive conversations with adult adoptees regarding their eligibility for information and content provided as a result of their request.

The bill also requires that the state registrar, when issuing an uncertified copy of an original, impounded birth record, to inform the recipient about current law provisions regarding access to certain information about a person's birth parents. The bill does not change certain restrictions applicable to vital record access in the circumstance of adoptions involving an Indian child.

DCF does not anticipate a change in the total number of requestors for adoption records requests under this bill. DCF would continue to conduct outreach and obtain consent via an affidavit from the birth parent(s) to release any identifying information (including location). This bill does not amend budget or position authority (1.0 FTE) in Chapter 20 related to adoption records searches (see s. 20.437 (1) (j)) and DCF does not anticipate any change in this workload.

The ARSP generated approximately \$27,000 in revenue in each SFY2020 and SFY2021 from fees collected from birth and adoption records searches. DCF recently eliminated the invoicing of adoptees/requestors for staff time spent on search for the records, however DCF charges for any additional expenses related to obtaining those records from the record holding entity. DCF does not anticipate a substantial shift in workload under this bill. However, there are unknowns regarding the number of additional requests for access to original unaltered birth certificates and the impact this may have on DCF's Adoption Records Search Program, including the type of outreach, and assisting requestors with new processes changes under this bill. Thus, the fiscal estimate is indeterminate.

Long-Range Fiscal Implications