

Fiscal Estimate Narratives

DHS 2/8/2023

LRB Number	23-1353/1	Introduction Number	SB-0015	Estimate Type	Original
Description access to an original impounded birth record					

Assumptions Used in Arriving at Fiscal Estimate

Under current law, when the state registrar of vital records is notified of an adoption, the state registrar creates a new birth record, unless the adoptive parents or adoptee requests no new record be created. The original birth record is impounded and can be released only if certain conditions are met.

This bill expands access to original impounded birth records. It allows an adoptee and any other person whose original birth record has been impounded to obtain access to "the unaltered birth record" that was impounded and an uncertified copy of his or her original record upon request once the person is 18 years of age.

The fiscal estimate is indeterminate because it is uncertain how the Department would implement the bill as drafted. The bill language requiring access to "the unaltered birth record" is in contrast to current law which allows adoptees access to the "original birth certificate" in some cases. Chapter 69 requires the state registrar to amend records in certain circumstances, and therefore the registrar would not always have retained the "unaltered" record.

Generally speaking, when legislation is enacted to modify the Vital Records statute, the Vital Records Office incurs staff time to make information system changes, modify and update forms, and communicate with stakeholders.

Long-Range Fiscal Implications