

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2000 Session

FISCAL NOTE

House Bill 1403 (Delegate Turner)

Judiciary

Family Law - Access to Birth and Adoption Records - Disclosure Veto

This bill requires that a disclosure veto prohibiting the disclosure of any information concerning an adopted individual or biological parent be filed with the Director of the Social Services Administration (SSA) of the Department of Human Resources (DHR) rather than with the Secretary of the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene (DHMH). The disclosure veto must be immediately forwarded to DHMH.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: The bill's requirements could be handled with existing budgeted resources.

Local Effect: None.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Current Law: An adopted individual at least 21 years old can apply to DHMH for a copy of the individual's original birth certificate, records relating to the individual's new birth certificate, and the report of the decree or judgement of adoption. If an adopted individual is at least 21 years old, a biological parent of the adopted individual may apply to DHMH for a copy of these records as well as the new birth certificate for the adopted individual. DHMH must inform an applicant of the availability of adoption search, contact, and reunion services provided by SSA.

Biological parents and adopted individuals over 20 years of age may file with DHMH a disclosure veto prohibiting the disclosure of any information concerning the parent or adopted individual.

State Fiscal Effect: DHR advises that it could handle the bill's change using existing budgeted resources. DHR employees providing adoption search, contact, and reunion services could collect disclosure vetoes and forward them to DHMH as part of overall services provided.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: None.

Information Source(s): Department of Health and Mental Hygiene (Vital Statistics Administration), Department of Human Resources, Department of Legislative Services

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