

Department of Legislative Services

Maryland General Assembly

2001 Session

FISCAL NOTE

Revised

House Bill 330

(Delegates Turner and Montague)

Judiciary

Judicial Proceedings

**Adoption Search, Contact, and Reunion Services - Access to Records by
Confidential Intermediary**

This bill authorizes the Adoption Program Manager of the Department of Human Resources to authorize a confidential intermediary providing adoption search, contact, and reunion services to get copies of or inspect certain records.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: The bill would not materially change State activities or operations.

Local Effect: None.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Current Law: Only the Director of the Social Services Administration can authorize a confidential intermediary providing adoption search, contact, and reunion services to get copies of or inspect certain records.

Background: A confidential intermediary may apply to the Secretary of Health and Mental Hygiene for a copy of birth records and the report of the decree or judgment of adoption filed by the clerk of the court. To apply for a copy of such a record, the confidential intermediary must submit a written statement, signed by the director and witnessed by a notary public, which authorizes the confidential intermediary to obtain the information. A confidential intermediary may also access information contained in a

public record by submitting to the custodian of the public record a written statement signed by the director and witnessed by a notary public.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: None.

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

Fiscal Note History: First Reader – February 5, 2001
ef/jr Revised – House Third Reader – March 26, 2001

Analysis by: Sandra Steele

Direct Inquiries to:
John Rixey, Coordinating Analyst
(410) 946-5510
(301) 970-5510