

**Department of Legislative Services**

Maryland General Assembly

2001 Session

**FISCAL NOTE**

House Bill 395 (Delegate Turner, *et al.*)

Judiciary

Judicial Proceedings

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**Family Law - Adoption Search, Contact, and Reunion Services - Siblings**

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This bill expands the adoption search, contact, and reunion services program within the Department of Human Resources to include siblings of adopted individuals.

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**Fiscal Summary**

**State Effect:** The bill's requirements could be handled by the Department of Human Resources with existing budgeted resources.

**Local Effect:** None.

**Small Business Effect:** None.

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**Analysis**

**Current Law:** Chapter 679 of 1998 provides that the Social Services Administration (SSA) of the Maryland Department of Human Resources must provide adoption search, contact, and reunion services. Adopted individuals and biological parents over 21 years of age are currently allowed to apply for these services through the use of an approved confidential intermediary.

**Background:** The Department of Human Resources advises that since the time that Chapter 679 went into effect, birth siblings have expressed a strong desire to be able to take advantage of the adoption search, contact, and reunion services so that they can be in touch with other children born to their parents. In some cases a family of siblings was

released for adoption who have not seen each other since. These individuals share common family and medical histories and many wish to contact each other.

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### **Additional Information**

**Prior Introductions:** This bill was introduced during the 2000 session as HB 461, and received an unfavorable report from the House Judiciary Committee.

**Cross File:** None.

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

**Fiscal Note History:** First Reader – February 15, 2001  
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