

**NORTH CAROLINA GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

**LEGISLATIVE FISCAL NOTE**

**BILL NUMBER:** House Bill 1037

**SHORT TITLE:** Adoptive Records Access

**SPONSOR(S):** Representative Brubaker

**FISCAL IMPACT:**   **Expenditures:**   **Increase ( X )**    **Decrease ( )**  
                           **Revenues:**           **Increase ( X )**    **Decrease ( )**  
                           **No Impact ( )**  
                           **No Estimate Available ( )**

**FUND AFFECTED:**    **General Fund ( X )** **Highway Fund ( )** **Local Fund ( X )**  
                           **Other Fund ( X )**

**BILL SUMMARY:** House Bill 1037 amends General Statutes Chapter 48, to add Sections 48-25.1 and 25.2, that would require the Department of Human Resources (DHR) to establish and maintain a registry for the recording of requests by certain adopted individuals for the name of any biological relative of the adoptee. Additionally, the bill would require DHR to maintain written consent and objections from biological relatives to the release of that person's identity. The bill further provides DHR with authority to establish a fee, not to exceed three hundred dollars (\$300), for the cost of conducting a registry search. County departments of social services and licensed child-placing agencies would be required to identify and notify biological parents and siblings under certain conditions specified in G.S. 48-25.1.

**EFFECTIVE DATE:** January 1, 1994

**PRINCIPAL DEPARTMENT(S)/PROGRAM(S) AFFECTED:** Department of Human Resources, county departments of social services and licensed child-placing agencies

**FISCAL IMPACT**

	<u>FY</u> FY94/95	<u>FY</u> FY95/96	<u>FY</u> FY96/97	<u>FY</u> FY97/98	<u>FY</u>
FY98/99					
<b>EXPENDITURES</b>					
<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURES</b>					
<b>STATE FUNDS</b>	\$100,000	\$ 75,000	\$ 75,000	\$ 75,000	\$
75,000					
<b>FEDERAL FUNDS</b>	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	
-0-					
<b>LOCAL FUNDS</b>	unknown	unknown	unknown	unknown	
unknown					
<b>OTHER FUNDS</b>	unknown	unknown	unknown	unknown	
unknown					

<b>RECEIPTS/FEES</b>	26,400	35,120	35,120	35,120
35,120				
<b>POSITIONS:</b>	2.0	2.0	2.0	2.0
2.0				

**ASSUMPTIONS AND METHODOLOGY:**

**A. Department of Human Resources** - The Department of Human Resources, Division of Social Services (DSS) estimates that approximately 125,000 adoption proceedings have been indexed in the State's Adoption Indexing Management System and could potentially be accessed via enactment of HB 1037. The Division of Social Services does not currently provide the information specified in the bill and is unable to project the potential number of requests and subsequent workload created as a result of the proposed law.

Given the lack of information regarding the potential requests generated by HB 1037, DSS estimates that one Social Services Consultant II and one Clerk-Typist IV would be needed to minimally comply with HB 1037. In addition to staff costs, FY94/95 cost estimates include approximately \$25,000 in non-recurring costs for automated systems enhancements and modifications as well as office supplies and equipment. No cost-of-living adjustments have been included in the projections.

Revenue projections assume that the average registry search would require approximately 15 hours of staff time. Given the staffing cited above, this equates to a total of 117 completed searches per year. The bill provides for a maximum of \$300 per search to offset the cost of conducting registry searches. Revenue estimates assume the fee would be collected for 9 months during FY94/95 due to time delays for development of registry regulations, automated systems modifications and related administrative tasks necessary to implement HB 1037.

**B. County Departments of Social Services and Licensed Child-Placing Agencies** - The proposed legislation could require extensive staff work to comply with HB 1037. Due to the uncertainty of the number of requests for information and the intensity of each search, costs to counties and licensed child-placing agencies are unknown.

**SOURCES OF DATA:** Department of Human Resources

**TECHNICAL CONSIDERATIONS:** none

**FISCAL RESEARCH DIVISION**

733-4910

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**APPROVED BY:** Tom Covington **TomC**

**DATE:** June 6, 1994

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