

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA



Session 2007

Legislative Fiscal Note

BILL NUMBER: House Bill 445 (First Edition)

SHORT TITLE: Access to Information for Adult Adoptees

SPONSOR(S): Representatives Dickson, Crawford, Wilkins, and Farmer-Butterfield

FISCAL IMPACT					
	Yes (X)	No ()	No Estimate Available ()		
	<u>FY 2007-08</u>	<u>FY 2008-09</u>	<u>FY 2009-10</u>	<u>FY 2010-11</u>	<u>FY 2011-12</u>
ANNUAL COST	\$23,483	\$40,965	\$40,965	\$40,965	\$40,965
REVENUES	\$11,250	\$22,500	\$22,500	\$22,500	\$22,500
GENERAL FUND APPROPRIATION	\$12,233	\$18,465	\$18,465	\$18,465	\$18,465
POSITIONS (cumulative): 1					
PRINCIPAL DEPARTMENT(S) & PROGRAM(S) AFFECTED: Department of Health and Human Services; Division of Public Health					
EFFECTIVE DATE: January 1, 2008					

BILL SUMMARY: This bill enacts a new GS 48-9-106A to permit an adult adoptee or the lineal descendant of a deceased adoptee to submit a request to the State Registrar for a copy of the adoptee's original birth certificate. The bill contains definitions for the following new terminology associated with the legislation and its intent.

- Confidential intermediary
- Contact preference form
- Lineal descendent
- Medical history form

The bill states that the State Registrar in the Division of Public Health is to develop a contact preference form and medical history form. A biological parent may at any time request a contact preference form. In fulfilling the request for a contact preference form, the Registrar will include a medical history form and request that it be completed by the biological parent and returned.

Upon receipt from biological parent of the completed forms, the State Registrar will place them in a sealed envelope and place them in the file containing the sealed original certificate of birth.

Upon receipt of a request, from an adoptee or descendants of a deceased adoptee, for a copy of the original certificate of birth and any evidence of the adoption held with the original records, a search is to be made to determine if the biological parent of requesting party has filed a contact preference form or medical history form. If a biological parent has submitted a contact preference form, a copy of that form must be provided to the adoptee, along with the birth certificate. Finally, a copy of the original birth certificate and other information in the file are to be provided to the requester and the usual fees collected.

The bill states that any contact preferences and medical history documents in the file are to be kept strictly confidential. Only the adoptee or the adoptee's descendants may gain access to the documents. The proposed legislation states that the State Registrar may not keep copies of the forms.

The bill makes the necessary conforming changes to GS 48-1-101, GS 48-9-104, GS 48-9-105, GS 48-9-106, and GS 48-9-107 to provide access to adoption information for an adult adoptee. Specifically:

The proposed legislation would become effective January 1, 2008 and pertain to all requests received following that date.

ASSUMPTIONS AND METHODOLOGY: If the proposed legislation is enacted the Office of the State Registrar in the Division of Public Health believes one full time employee (FTE) will be required to process and respond to request from adoptees or their descendants. The one FTE needed is a Processing Assistant V, Pay Grade 61, with an annual mid point salary of \$32,328, plus an additional \$8,637 for retirement, social security, and medical coverage. This totals to \$40,965. While the additional FTE can be accommodated within current office space, the Division anticipates one-time costs of \$3,000 to purchase new office equipment and furniture to furnish the office space. There will be the ongoing routine costs of printing, mailing, telephone, office supplies and general office operation, the Division of Public Health believes these can be accommodated with existing resources.

The proposed legislation is expected to generate additional, new revenue for the State Registrar through the collection of the statutory fees noted in §130A-93.1—\$15 for each request. It is not known how many requests will be received, but a generous estimate is 1,500 annually. At this rate, \$22,500 in additional revenue would be generated annually to defray the salary, benefit, and general administrative costs associated with this activity. This amount of revenue is insufficient to cover the costs of the activities associated with activity.

Each fiscal year the Division of Public Health will budget an estimated amount for receipts for the activity. To the extent that the collection of fees exceeds the budgeted amount, the Division of Public Health believes the unanticipated excess amount should be retained to further defray the cost of the activity.

Because the effective date of this legislation is January 1, 2008 the fiscal impact is based on six months of operation in FY 2007-08. This includes six-months of salary and benefits and all of the costs associated with office equipment and furniture.

	FISCAL YR 07/08	FISCAL YR 08/09	FISCAL YR 09/10	FISCAL YR 10/11	FISCAL YR 11/12
State	\$23,483	\$40,965	\$40,965	\$40,965	\$40,965
Federal					
Other					
Total	\$23,483	\$40,965	\$40,965	\$40,965	\$40,965

SOURCES OF DATA: Department of Health and Human Services, Division of Public Health

TECHNICAL CONSIDERATIONS: None

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DATE: May 2, 2007



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