

STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2011

A N A C T

RELATING TO HEALTH AND SAFETY -- VITAL RECORDS

Introduced By: Senator William A. Walaska

Date Introduced: February 16, 2011

Referred To: Senate Health & Human Services

It is enacted by the General Assembly as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Chapter 23-3 of the General Laws entitled "Vital Records" is hereby  
2 amended by adding thereto the following sections:

3 **23-3-15.2. Access to original birth certificate by adopted person. -- (a) An adopted**  
4 **person, the adopted person's attorney or the descendants of the adopted person (if the adopted**  
5 **person is deceased) may obtain an uncertified copy of that person's original certificate of birth**  
6 **from vital statistics provided that the following requirements are met:**

7 **(1) The adopted person is at least eighteen (18) years of age and was born in Rhode**  
8 **Island.**

9 **(2) The adopted person if alive, submits a written application and proper identification.**

10 **(3) The fee paid has been set at the same amount for an original birth certificate.**

11 **(b) The department of health shall develop an application form as required by this section**  
12 **and may adopt other rules for the administration of this section.**

13 **23-3-15.3. Contact preference and medical history forms. -- (a) Birth parent(s) shall**  
14 **be provided with a contact preference form on which a birth parent may state a preference**  
15 **regarding contact by an adoptee. This form is subject to the utmost confidentiality. The birth**  
16 **parent(s) may choose one of the following three (3) options:**

17 **(1) "I would like to be contacted. I have completed the contact preference form and the**  
18 **medical history form and I am filing them with the department of health - vital statistics."**

19 **(2) "I would prefer to be contacted only through an intermediary. I have completed this**

1 contact preference form and a medical history form and I am filing them with the department of  
2 health - vital statistics."

3 (3) "Do not contact me. I may change this preference by filling out another contact  
4 preference form. I have completed this contact preference form and a medical history form and I  
5 am filing them with the department of health - vital statistics."

6 (b) Birth parent(s) shall be provided with a medical history form. This form shall describe  
7 the medical history of the birth parent(s). This form is subject to the utmost confidentiality.

8 (c) After completion, the medical history form and contact preference form shall be  
9 attached to the original birth certificate of the adoptee.

10 (d) The department of health - vital statistics office shall develop forms required by this  
11 section.

12 SECTION 2. This act shall take effect upon passage.

=====  
LC00203  
=====

EXPLANATION  
BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL  
OF  
A N A C T  
RELATING TO HEALTH AND SAFETY -- VITAL RECORDS

\*\*\*

- 1           This act would allow adult adoptees or their representative access to their original birth
- 2   certificate and possibly medical and contact information for the birth parent(s).
- 3           This act would take effect upon passage.

=====  
LC00203  
=====