

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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STATE OF MAINE
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES (Filing No. H-434)
109TH LEGISLATURE
FIRST REGULAR SESSION

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" to H.P. 1190, L.D. 1431, Bill,
"AN ACT to Provide for a Method of Arranging Voluntary Meetings
Between Adoptees and Adoptive Parents and Natural Parents."

Amend the Bill by striking out everything after the
enacting clause and inserting in its place the following:

'22 MRSA §2706-A is enacted to read:

§2706-A. Adoption contact files

1. File. The state registrar shall maintain files of the names and addresses of adopted persons and their adoptive and biological parents, who have registered under this section.
2. Registration. The following persons may register their name and address with the state registrar and request contact:
 - A. An adopted person 18 years old or more;
 - B. An adoptive parent of an adopted person who is less than 18 years old; and
 - C. A biological parent of an adopted person.
3. Requesting additional information. The state registrar may request from each person registering or requesting contact any information that is necessary to insure accurate identification of that person and to assist in identifying the other party.
4. Reviewing departmental files. The state registrar may review both public and confidential departmental files to assist in identifying or verifying the identification of the other party.

If both parties have registered, he may release those names and addresses even if the relationship was identified or verified by the use of confidential departmental files. He may charge a fee for the assistance which shall reasonably reflect the cost of providing it.

5. Request for contact. When the state registrar has a request for contact from both a biological parent and that parent's adopted child or the child's adoptive parent, he shall notify each party of the name and address of the other party.

6. Confidentiality. Except as provided in subsection 5, the files established under this section shall be confidential and not open to public inspection.

7. Public information. The state registrar shall, by appropriate means, make known to the public the existence of the adoption contact files, the assistance the department may offer and the purposes of those files.

FISCAL NOTE

This legislation does not require any appropriation. The minimal cost of maintaining the adoption contact files can be met from the Department's existing budget. The cost of assisting or verifying identification is to be met by a fee equal to its cost.

Statement of Fact

This amendment clarifies the provisions of the bill, and expressly provides for assistance in identifying or verifying identification of another party. It also provides for a fee for that assistance. It also declares that these files are confidential, except for the specific use of providing both adopted children and their biological parents with the other's name and address, if both have registered.

Reported by the Majority of the Committee on Judiciary
Reproduced and distributed under the direction of the
Clerk of the House.

5/16/79 (Filing No. H-434)