THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE BILL

No. 558 Session of 2005

INTRODUCED BY GRUCELA, BLAUM, CALTAGIRONE, CAPPELLI, CRAHALLA, FRANKEL, FREEMAN, JOSEPHS, STERN, THOMAS, TIGUE, BOYD, CREIGHTON, DALLY, GEORGE, GOOD, HARHAI, HUTCHINSON, R. MILLER, SATHER, TANGRETTI, JAMES, PISTELLA, FABRIZIO AND YUDICHAK, FEBRUARY 15, 2005

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY, FEBRUARY 15, 2005

AN ACT

1 Amending Title 23 (Domestic Relations) of the Pennsylvania
2   Consolidated Statutes, further providing for adoption
3   definitions; and establishing the Pennsylvania Adoption
4   Information Retrieval System.

5   The General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania

6 hereby enacts as follows:

7   Section 1. Section 2102 of Title 23 of the Pennsylvania

8 Consolidated Statutes is amended by adding a definition to read:

9 § 2102. Definitions.

10   The following words and phrases when used in this part shall

11 have, unless the context clearly indicates otherwise, the

12 meanings given to them in this section:

13   * * *

14   "PAIRS." The Pennsylvania Adoption Information Retrieval

15 System established in section 2911 (relating to PAIRS).

16   * * *

17   Section 2. Title 23 is amended by adding a section to read:

1 § 2911. PAIRS.

2   (a) Establishment.--In order to develop more reliable data

3 on adoption practices and to improve the analysis of trends and

4 issues in adoptions, the Department of Public Welfare shall

5 establish the Pennsylvania Adoption Information Retrieval System

6 to serve as a Statewide data collection and reporting system for

7 nonidentifying, statistical information regarding adoptions.

8   (b) Data.--On a quarterly basis, the court, in cooperation

9 with the agency or intermediary that facilitated the adoption,

10 shall forward to the department the following:

11   (1) A form under subsection (d) for each adoption

12   finalized by the court during the reporting period.

13   (2) The total number of adoptions during the reporting

14   period.

15   (c) Duty of adoption agency and intermediary.--It is the

16 responsibility of the agency or intermediary that facilitated

17 the adoption to cooperate to the fullest extent possible in

18 providing the court any information concerning the adoption

19 which is requested by the department.

20   (d) Forms.--The department shall develop an adoption data

21 form and distribute the form to each court of common pleas. The

22 form shall require the following nonidentifying information:

23   (1) The child's birth date, race and place of birth.

24   (2) The birth date and race of the birth parents.

25   (3) The birth date and race of the adoptive parents.

26   (4) Whether the adoptive parent is a stepparent, foster

27   parent or relative of the child and, if the adoptive parent

28   is a relative of the child, the relationship.

29   (5) Whether parental rights were terminated voluntarily

30   or involuntarily, including the date or dates when rights

1   were terminated.

2   (6) Whether each birth parent consented to the adoption

3   and the date the consent was entered.

4   (7) Whether and for how long the child was in the

5   custody of an agency or in private placement before the

6   adoption was finalized.

7   (8) The date the court entered the adoption decree.

8   (9) Whether the child was eligible for and received

9   adoption assistance and what type of assistance, if any.

10   (10) Any other information that the department may

11   require by regulation.

12   (e) Report.--No later than May 1 of each year, the

13   department shall submit to the Governor, the Secretary of the

14   Senate, the Chief Clerk of the House of Representatives and the

15   Administrative Office of Pennsylvania Courts a report on PAIRS

16   based upon the statistical information received under subsection

17   (b). The department shall include in the report any analyses of

18   the data or recommendations which it deems appropriate.

19   Section 3. This act shall take effect in 180 days.