THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE BILL

No. 921 Session of 2001

INTRODUCED BY GRUCELA, COY, BLAUM, SOLOBAY, YUDICHAK, BELFANTI, BROWNE, CALTAGIRONE, L. I. COHEN, COLAFELLA, COSTA, CREIGHTON, CURRY, DALEY, FRANKEL, FREEMAN, HARHAI, JOSEPHS, KELLER, KIRKLAND, LAUGHLIN, MANN, McCALL, MELIO, R. MILLER, SCRIMENTI, SEMMEL, SHANER, STABACK, THOMAS, TIGUE, WALKO, WANSACZ, WATERS AND C. WILLIAMS, MARCH 12, 2001

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY, MARCH 12, 2001

AN ACT

1 Amending Title 23 (Domestic Relations) of the Pennsylvania
2   Consolidated Statutes, further providing for definitions; and
3   providing for adoption information retrieval systems.

4   The General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania

5 hereby enacts as follows:

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

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

8 § 2102. Definitions.

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

10 have, unless the context clearly indicates otherwise, the

11 meanings given to them in this section:

12   * * *

13   "PAIRS." The Pennsylvania Adoption Information Retrieval

14 System.

15   * * *

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

§ 2911. PAIRS.

(a) Establishment.--In order to develop more reliable data
on adoption practices and to improve the analysis of trends and
issues in adoptions, the Department of Public Welfare shall
establish the Pennsylvania Adoption Information Retrieval System
(PAIRS) to serve as a Statewide data collection and reporting
system for nonidentifying, statistical information regarding
adoptions.

(b) Data.--On a quarterly basis and on forms prepared and
distributed by the department, the clerk, in cooperation with
the agency or intermediary that facilitated the adoption, shall
forward to the department certain information concerning each
adoption finalized by the court.

(c) Duty of adoption agency and intermediary.--It is the
responsibility of the agency or intermediary that facilitated
the adoption to cooperate to the fullest extent possible in
providing the clerk any information concerning the adoption that
is requested by the department.

(d) Forms.--The department shall develop an adoption data
card, which shall be a streamlined form distributed to each
court of common pleas, that shall include, but not be limited
to, the following nonidentifying information and data elements
relating to each adoption finalized by a court of common pleas:

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

        (2) The birth date and race of the biological parent or
    parents.

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

        (4) Whether the adoptive parent is a stepparent, foster
    parent or relative and the relationship to the child, if any.

1   (5) Whether parental rights were terminated voluntarily

2 or involuntarily, including the date or dates when rights

3 were terminated, or whether the biological parents consented

4 to the adoption and the date the consents were entered.

5   (6) Whether the child was in the custody of a public or

6 private agency or in a private placement arranged by an

7 independent intermediary when the adoption petition was filed

8 and for how long the child was in the placement prior to the

9 filing of the adoption petition.

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

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

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

13   (9) Any other information that the department may

14 require by regulation.

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

16 department shall submit to the Governor and the appropriate

17 standing committees of the Senate and the House of

18 Representatives a report on PAIRS based upon the statistical

19 information received from the clerks. The department shall

20 include in the report any analyses of the data or

21 recommendations which it deems appropriate.

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