SUMMARY: House Bill 162, Printer’s Number 2579, amends Title 23 (Domestic Relations) to provide an adoptee with access to a noncertified copy of his or her original birth record. The legislation is effective in 180 days.

ANALYSIS: This legislation adds the definition for a noncertified copy of original birth record to Section 2911 of Title 23. The noncertified copy is similar in form to the certified copy of an original birth record but only includes the names and ages of the birth parents, the date and county of the birth and the name of the child given at birth.

The legislation also replaces the language in Section 2937 of Title 23, relating to original birth records, with new language that requires the Department of Health to issue a noncertified copy of original birth record, within 45 days, to an adoptee who is 19 years of age or older and has submitted an application for the record. The department may charge a fee for the record but no more than the fee for a certified copy of a birth record, which is currently $10. The department must develop policies and procedures to comply with this section within 180 days.

FISCAL IMPACT: This legislation would have no adverse fiscal impact on Commonwealth funds.

PREPARED BY: Ann Bertolino
House Appropriations Committee (R)

DATE: October 22, 2013

Estimates are calculated using the best information available. Actual costs and revenue impact incurred may vary from estimates.