

2889

2013-2014 Regular Sessions

I N S E N A T E

January 24, 2013

Introduced by Sen. SKELOS -- read twice and ordered printed, and when printed to be committed to the Committee on Health

AN ACT to amend the public health law, in relation to the adoption information registry; and to amend chapter 480 of the laws of 2012, amending the public health law relating to the adoption registry, in relation to the effectiveness thereof

THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK, REPRESENTED IN SENATE AND ASSEMBLY, DO ENACT AS FOLLOWS:

1 Section 1. Subdivision 2 and the opening paragraph of subdivision 4 of
2 section 4138-c of the public health law, as amended by chapter 480 of
3 the laws of 2012, are amended to read as follows:
4 2. Upon application for registration by an adoptee not born in this
5 state, or by a birth parent or BIOLOGICAL sibling of such an adoptee,
6 the department shall [search the records of the department to], TO THE
7 EXTENT PRACTICABLE, determine whether the adoptee's adoption occurred
8 within this state. If the department determines that the adoption
9 occurred within this state, it shall register the applicant if he or she
10 is otherwise qualified and make appropriate notifications pursuant to
11 subdivision four of this section. The registry shall accept, at any
12 time, and maintain the verified registration transmitted by an agency
13 pursuant to section forty-one hundred thirty-eight-d of this title, or
14 of the birth parents of an adoptee who was born in this state. The
15 registry shall neither accept nor maintain the registration of an adop-
16 tee sooner than eighteen years after the adoptee's birth, or in the case
17 of registration by a biological sibling of an adoptee, no sooner than
18 the longer of eighteen years after the biological sibling's birth or
19 eighteen years after the adoptee's birth. Any person whose registration
20 was accepted may withdraw such registration prior to the release of any
21 identifying information. The adoptee registrant, and the biological
22 sibling registrant, shall include as part of the registration the iden-
23 tification, including the name and address, of known biological siblings

EXPLANATION--Matter in *ITALICS* (underscored) is new; matter in brackets [] is old law to be omitted.

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1 of the adoptee. The adoptee may upon registration, or any time thereaft-
2 er, elect not to have release of information by the authorized agency
3 involved in such adoption. The department shall establish an authorized
4 agency fee schedule for search costs and registry costs and services
5 provided by such agency in gathering and forwarding information pursuant
6 to this section. The fee schedule may also include costs for disseminat-
7 ing information about the registry and the adoption medical information
8 sub-registry to the public. Such publications or brochures may include
9 information as to identifying and non-identifying information, how to
10 register and fees charged to the registrants, and any other information
11 deemed appropriate.

12 Upon acceptance of a registration of an adoptee born in this state, or
13 by a birth parent or BIOLOGICAL sibling of such adoptee, pursuant to
14 this section, the department shall search the records of the department
15 to determine whether the adoptee's adoption occurred within this state.
16 [Upon completion of] AFTER MAKING A DETERMINATION, TO THE EXTENT PRACTI-
17 CABLE, AS TO WHETHER AN ADOPTEE'S ADOPTION OCCURRED WITHIN THIS STATE
18 PURSUANT TO SUBDIVISION TWO OF THIS SECTION, OR UPON COMPLETING a search
19 of the records pursuant to this subdivision [or subdivision two of this
20 section]:

21 S 2. Paragraphs (d) and (e) of subdivision 6-a of section 4138-c of
22 the public health law, as amended by chapter 480 of the laws of 2012,
23 are amended to read as follows:

24 (d) Upon receipt from the birth parent of certified medical informa-
25 tion and other information needed to identify the adopted person, the
26 department shall, TO THE EXTENT PRACTICABLE, determine if the adoptee
27 was adopted in New York state. If the adoptee was adopted in New York
28 state, the department shall register such information and determine if
29 the adoptee or adoptive parent of the adoptee is registered. Upon such
30 determination, the department shall release the non-identifying medical
31 information only to an adoptee, aged eighteen years or older, or adop-
32 tive parent of an adoptee who has not attained the age of eighteen
33 years.

34 (e) Upon receipt from an adoptee aged eighteen years or older or the
35 parent of an adoptee of a registration, the department shall, TO THE
36 EXTENT PRACTICABLE, determine if the adoptee was adopted in New York
37 state. If the adoptee was adopted in New York state, the department
38 shall search its records for medical information provided by the
39 adoptee's birth parent. If such medical information is found, the
40 department shall release the non-identifying medical information only,
41 to an adoptee, aged eighteen years or older, or adoptive parent of an
42 adoptee who has not attained the age of eighteen years.

43 S 3. Section 5 of chapter 480 of the laws of 2012, amending the public
44 health law relating to the adoption registry, is amended to read as
45 follows:

46 S 5. This act shall take effect [immediately] ONE YEAR AFTER IT SHALL
47 HAVE BECOME A LAW.

48 S 4. This act shall take effect immediately; provided that sections
49 one and two of this act shall take effect on the same date and in the
50 same manner as chapter 480 of the laws of 2012, as amended, takes
51 effect.