

**BILL SUMMARY**  
1st Session of the 53rd Legislature

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|------------------------|---------------------------------|
| <b>Bill No.:</b>       | <b>SB 510</b>                   |
| <b>Version:</b>        | <b>Engrossed</b>                |
| <b>Request Number:</b> | <b>N.A.</b>                     |
| <b>Author:</b>         | <b>Sen. Russell/Rep. Nelson</b> |
| <b>Date:</b>           | <b>3/20/2011</b>                |
| <b>Impact:</b>         | <b>\$50,987.41</b>              |

**Research Analysis**

SB 510 contains recommendations from the Adoption Review Task Force, including:

- Authorizing the court to disclose birth parent medical records to an adult adoptee only if the rights of the adoptee outweigh the privacy rights of the birth parent;
- Directing the Administrative Director of the Courts (ADC) to develop a form to collect demographic information regarding the adoption of each child in Oklahoma and requires each court clerk to collect the information and make an annual report to the ADC which will forward it to the Department of Human Services for compilation and public reporting;
- Modifying the list of allowable adoption-related costs and expenses that a person may pay for in connection with an adoption to include reasonable and necessary costs associated with an international adoption and a one-time gift from the adoptive parents to the birth mother valued at no more than \$100.00;
- Clarifying what constitutes reasonable and necessary living expenses of the birth mother and requires certain verification of living expenses paid for on behalf of a birth mother;
- Provides that a home study is not required if the spouse of a birth parent has filed a petition for adoption of a minor child who lives with the birth parent and his or her spouse;
- Modifying the list of persons or agencies that are authorized to conduct a home study of prospective adoptive parents;
- Increasing from 22 to 99 years the length of time records of adoptions finalized in the state are required to be maintained; and
- Authorizing DHS to disclose to an employee of an out-of-state entity licensed to perform home studies or adoptions in that state confirmation as to whether a parent has relinquished parental rights to a child in this state or has had parental rights to such child terminated.

Prepared By: Marcia Goff

**Fiscal Analysis**

Engrossed SB 510 requires child-placing agencies, attorneys, or other entities that facilitate adoptions, but cease to operate or to practice in this state are required to transfer their adoption records to Oklahoma Department of Human Services (OKDHS), or after giving notice to OKDHS, to a transferee agency that is assuming responsibility for the preservation of the agency's adoption records.

OKDHS records are maintained electronically permanently and there should be little to no fiscal impact for maintenance of OKDHS adoption records for 99 years.

According to OKDHS, it costs \$3.60 yearly to store one box of private agency adoption records. OKDHS estimates 25 boxes of *private agency* adoption records are received each year for storage with about 100 currently stored. The cost for storing the current 100 boxes for 99 years will be \$35,640. Adding 25 boxes each year for 99 years maintenance will cost an additional \$8,910 per year.

Compiling information for public release will most likely require, for one month yearly, the full attention of a Program Field Representative I, at an estimated cost of \$6,437.41state dollars. OKDHS estimates that the total cost for carrying out the provisions specified in SB 510 will be \$50,987.41 annually.

Prepared By: David Ligon

### **Other Considerations**

SB 510 ensures that private adoption records will be stored for 99 years, thus allowing public release of such information to pertinent individuals under certain specified conditions.