

## **BILL ANALYSIS**

H.B. 2979  
By: Goolsby  
Juvenile Justice & Family Issues  
Committee Report (Unamended)

### **BACKGROUND AND PURPOSE**

Until 1957, adoptees had access to their birth certificates without a court order. However, in the 55th Legislature, the law was changed to require a court order for access to the original birth certificate.

House Bill 2979 would allow adoptive persons over the age of 18 who already know the name(s) of their birth parent(s) listed on the original birth certificate, to obtain their original birth certificate without the necessity of a court order.

### **RULEMAKING AUTHORITY**

It is the committee's opinion that this bill does not expressly grant any additional rulemaking authority to a state officer, department, agency, or institution.

### **SECTION BY SECTION ANALYSIS**

**SECTION 1.** Amends Section 192.008, Health and Safety Code, by amending Subsection (d) to provide for applicability to Subsections (e) and (f). Adds Subsection (f) to provide that an adult adoptee who is applying for access to the person's original birth certificate and who knows the identity of each parent named on the original birth certificate is entitled to a copy of the original birth certificate without obtaining a court order

**SECTION 2.** This Act takes effect January 1, 2004. (b) Retrospective and prospective provisions.

### **EFFECTIVE DATE**

January 1, 2004.