

By: Goolsby

H.B. No. 2979

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

1 AN ACT

2 relating to the right of an adopted person to have access to the  
3 person's original birth certificate.

4 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

5 SECTION 1. Section 192.008, Health and Safety Code, is  
6 amended by amending Subsection (d) and adding Subsection (f) to  
7 read as follows:

8 (d) Except as provided by Subsections [~~Subsection~~] (e) and  
9 (f), only the court that granted the adoption may order access to an  
10 original birth certificate and the filed documents on which a  
11 supplementary certificate is based.

12 (f) An adult adoptee who is applying for access to the  
13 person's original birth certificate and who knows the identity of  
14 each parent named on the original birth certificate is entitled to a  
15 copy of the original birth certificate without obtaining a court  
16 order.

17 SECTION 2. (a) This Act takes effect January 1, 2004.

18 (b) The change in law made by this Act applies to access to  
19 an original birth certificate by an adopted person without regard  
20 to whether the adoption order for the person was rendered before,  
21 on, or after the effective date of this Act.