

By: Campbell, et al.

S.B. No. 1362

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to notification and informational materials regarding mutual consent voluntary adoption registries.

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

SECTION 1. (a) This Act shall be known as the Mothers' Privacy Protection Act.

(b) It is the intent of the legislature that parties to an adoption be informed of all future contact options and resources, while respecting and protecting the decisions of parties to allow or not allow contact.

SECTION 2. Section 162.403, Family Code, is amended by adding Subsections (d) and (e) to read as follows:

(d) The vital statistics unit shall develop informational materials for birth parents and adoptive parents regarding the central registry and the other registries established under Subsection (b). The unit shall make the informational materials readily available on the department's Internet website.

(e) An authorized agency shall:

(1) notify in writing the birth parents and adoptive parents of a child for whom the authorized agency is providing adoption services of the existence of:

(A) the central registry; and

(B) any registry established by the authorized agency or by another authorized agency or an association of those

1 agencies with whom the authorized agency contracts to perform
2 registry services on its behalf, as applicable; and

3 (2) provide the birth parents and adoptive parents
4 with the informational materials described by Subsection (d).

5 SECTION 3. The vital statistics unit of the Department of
6 State Health Services shall make available on its Internet website
7 the informational materials required by Section 162.403(d), Family
8 Code, as added by this Act, not later than January 1, 2018.

9 SECTION 4. Section 162.403(e), Family Code, as added by
10 this Act, applies beginning with a child for whom an authorized
11 agency is providing adoption services on or after January 1, 2018.

12 SECTION 5. This Act takes effect September 1, 2017.