

## **BILL ANALYSIS**

H.B. 2006  
By: Harris, Cody  
Public Health  
Committee Report (Unamended)

### **BACKGROUND AND PURPOSE**

There are concerns about restricted access to an adopted individual's birth certificate in Texas. Adopted individuals must petition the court in which their adoption took place in order to receive their original birth certificate instead of receiving the birth certificate on request. H.B. 2006 seeks to expand access to birth certificates of adult adoptees by requiring the state registrar of vital statistics to provide, upon written request, to an adopted person or an applicable family member of a deceased adopted person, a noncertified copy of the adopted person's original birth certificate without a court order under certain conditions. The legislation requires the state registrar to collect a fee for this service and to issue the copy within the time prescribed for the issuance of other noncertified copies of birth certificates.

### **CRIMINAL JUSTICE IMPACT**

It is the committee's opinion that this bill does not expressly create a criminal offense, increase the punishment for an existing criminal offense or category of offenses, or change the eligibility of a person for community supervision, parole, or mandatory supervision.

### **RULEMAKING AUTHORITY**

It is the committee's opinion that rulemaking authority is expressly granted to the executive commissioner of the Health and Human Services Commission in SECTION 1 of this bill.

### **ANALYSIS**

H.B. 2006 amends the Health and Safety Code to require the state registrar of vital statistics on written request without a court order to provide to an adopted person or a certain family member of a deceased adopted person a noncertified copy of the adopted person's original birth certificate under the following conditions:

- the adopted person was born in Texas;
- the request is made on or after the adopted person's 18th birthday;
- a supplementary birth certificate was issued for the adopted person; and
- the person requesting the copy provides appropriate proof of the person's identity, in person or by mail.

The bill requires the state registrar to collect a fee for this service in an amount equal to the fee charged for issuing a noncertified copy of a birth certificate and to issue the copy within the time prescribed for issuance of other noncertified copies of birth certificates. The state registrar is not required to comply with these requirements until July 1, 2024.

H.B. 2006 specifies that the rules and procedures adopted by the executive commissioner of the Health and Human Services Commission for ensuring that birth records and indexes accessible to the general public do not contain information or cross-references through which the confidentiality of adoption placements may be violated are to be consistent with provisions regarding birth records of an adopted person.

**EFFECTIVE DATE**

September 1, 2023.