

March 4, 1999

S 236. ADOPTION RECORDS AND REGISTRY (=H 286). *TO AMEND THE ADOPTION LAWS PERTAINING TO ACCESS TO ADOPTION RECORDS AND TO ESTABLISH AN ADOPTION REGISTRY.* Adds new Art. 11 ("Adoption Registry") to GS Ch. 48. Establishes a statewide, confidential, voluntary registry to which adoptees and biological relatives of adoptees may submit notarized forms indicating their authorization for the release of confidential information about themselves to adoptees or relatives matching them. To the extent known, each person submitting an authorization may provide his or her name and other identifying information, the original and adoptive name of the adoptee, the place of birth, date of birth, and sex of the adoptee, and the name and address of the agency that placed the adoptee. The person submitting the authorization may identify the people to whom the information is to be released. Any person submitting an authorization may, at any time, revoke the authorization. Any person may, at any time, file with the registry a denial of authorization. When the Dep't of Health and Human Services (operating the registry) finds a match between biological relatives and adoptees authorizing disclosure of information to the other, DHHS will notify the agency that originally arranged the adoption, and that agency is to notify the individuals. If the agency is no longer in existence, then DHHS will make the notification. All communication between adoptees and biological relatives must be made by an experienced social worker. Fee for filing with the registry is \$50. Social Services Comm'n must adopt rules for operating the registry. Unauthorized dissemination of information from the registry is a Class I felony. Appropriates \$167,000 for 1999-2000 and \$160,000 for 2000-2001 from General Fund to Dep't of Health & Human Services to establish and maintain registry. Appropriations are effective July 1, 1999; remainder of act effective Jan. 1, 2000.

Intro. by Lucas.

Ref. to Judiciary I

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