

SECOND REGULAR SESSION  
[P E R F E C T E D]  
SENATE COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE FOR  
**SENATE BILL NO. 594**  
95TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY

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Reported from the Committee on Health, Mental Health, Seniors and Families, February 11, 2010, with recommendation that the Senate Committee Substitute do pass.

Senate Committee Substitute for Senate Bill No. 594, adopted February 16, 2010.

Taken up for Perfection February 16, 2010. Bill declared Perfected and Ordered Printed, as amended.

TERRY L. SPIELER, Secretary.

3209S.02P

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**AN ACT**

To repeal sections 193.125, 193.255, and 453.170, RSMo, and to enact in lieu thereof five new sections relating to adoption records.

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*Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Missouri, as follows:*

Section A. Sections 193.125, 193.255, and 453.170, RSMo, are repealed  
2 and five new sections enacted in lieu thereof, to be known as sections 193.125,  
3 193.128, 193.132, 193.255, and 453.170, to read as follows:

193.125. 1. This section shall be known and may be cited as the "Debbi  
2 Daniel Law".

3 2. Except as otherwise provided in subsection 3 of this section, for each  
4 adoption decreed by a court of competent jurisdiction in this state, the court shall  
5 require the preparation of a certificate of decree of adoption on a form as  
6 prescribed or approved by the state registrar. The certificate of decree of  
7 adoption shall include such facts as are necessary to locate and identify the  
8 certificate of birth of the person adopted, and shall provide information necessary  
9 to establish a new certificate of birth of the person adopted and shall identify the  
10 court and county of the adoption and be certified by the clerk of the court. The  
11 state registrar shall file the original certificate of birth with the certificate of  
12 decree of adoption and such file may be opened by the state registrar only upon  
13 receipt of a certified copy of an order as decreed by the court of adoption **or in**  
14 **accordance with section 193.128.**

15 3. No new certificate of birth shall be established following an adoption

**EXPLANATION—Matter enclosed in bold-faced brackets [thus] in this bill is not enacted and is intended to be omitted in the law.**

16 by a stepparent if so requested by the adoptive parent or the adoptive stepparent  
17 of the child.

18 4. Information necessary to prepare the report of adoption shall be  
19 furnished by each petitioner for adoption or the petitioner's attorney. The social  
20 welfare agency or any person having knowledge of the facts shall supply the court  
21 with such additional information as may be necessary to complete the  
22 report. The provision of such information shall be prerequisite to the issuance  
23 of a final decree in the matter by the court.

24 5. Whenever an adoption decree is amended or annulled, the clerk of the  
25 court shall prepare a report thereof, which shall include such facts as are  
26 necessary to identify the original adoption report and the facts amended in the  
27 adoption decree as shall be necessary to properly amend the birth record.

28 6. Not later than the fifteenth day of each calendar month or more  
29 frequently as directed by the state registrar the clerk of the court shall forward  
30 to the state registrar reports of decrees of adoption, annulment of adoption and  
31 amendments of decrees of adoption which were entered in the preceding month,  
32 together with such related reports as the state registrar shall require.

33 7. When the state registrar shall receive a report of adoption, annulment  
34 of adoption, or amendment of a decree of adoption for a person born outside this  
35 state, he or she shall forward such report to the state registrar in the state of  
36 birth.

37 8. In a case of adoption in this state of a person not born in any state,  
38 territory or possession of the United States or country not covered by interchange  
39 agreements, the state registrar shall upon receipt of the certificate of decree of  
40 adoption prepare a birth certificate in the name of the adopted person, as decreed  
41 by the court. The state registrar shall file the certificate of the decree of  
42 adoption, and such documents may be opened by the state registrar only by an  
43 order of court. The birth certificate prepared under this subsection shall have the  
44 same legal weight as evidence as a delayed or altered birth certificate as provided  
45 in section 193.235.

46 9. The department, upon receipt of proof that a person has been adopted  
47 by a Missouri resident pursuant to laws of countries other than the United  
48 States, shall prepare a birth certificate in the name of the adopted person as  
49 decreed by the court of such country. If such proof contains the surname of either  
50 adoptive parent, the department of health and senior services shall prepare a  
51 birth certificate as requested by the adoptive parents. Any subsequent change

52 of the name of the adopted person shall be made by a court of competent  
53 jurisdiction. The proof of adoption required by the department shall include a  
54 copy of the original birth certificate and adoption decree, an English translation  
55 of such birth certificate and adoption decree, and a copy of the approval of the  
56 immigration of the adopted person by the Immigration and Naturalization Service  
57 of the United States government which shows the child lawfully entered the  
58 United States. The authenticity of the translation of the birth certificate and  
59 adoption decree required by this subsection shall be sworn to by the translator  
60 in a notarized document. The state registrar shall file such documents received  
61 by the department relating to such adoption and such documents may be opened  
62 by the state registrar only by an order of a court. A birth certificate pursuant to  
63 this subsection shall be issued upon request of one of the adoptive parents of such  
64 adopted person or upon request of the adopted person if of legal age. The birth  
65 certificate prepared pursuant to the provisions of this subsection shall have the  
66 same legal weight as evidence as a delayed or altered birth certificate as provided  
67 in sections 193.005 to 193.325.

68         10. If no certificate of birth is on file for the person under twelve years of  
69 age who has been adopted, a belated certificate of birth shall be filed with the  
70 state registrar as provided in sections 193.005 to 193.325 before a new birth  
71 record is to be established as result of adoption. A new certificate is to be  
72 established on the basis of the adoption under this section and shall be prepared  
73 on a certificate of live birth form.

74         11. If no certificate of birth has been filed for a person twelve years of age  
75 or older who has been adopted, a new birth certificate is to be established under  
76 this section upon receipt of proof of adoption as required by the department. A  
77 new certificate shall be prepared in the name of the adopted person as decreed  
78 by the court, registering adopted parents' names. The new certificate shall be  
79 prepared on a delayed birth certificate form. The adoption decree is placed in a  
80 sealed file and shall not be subject to inspection except upon an order of the  
81 court.

**193.128. 1. Notwithstanding any other provision of law, an  
2 adopted person, the adopted person's attorney, or the adopted person's  
3 descendants, if the adopted person is deceased, may obtain a copy of  
4 such adopted person's original certificate of birth from the state  
5 registrar in accordance with this section.**

**6         2. In order for an adopted person to receive a copy of his or her**

7 original certificate of birth, the adopted person shall:

8 (1) Be at least eighteen years of age;

9 (2) Have been born in this state;

10 (3) File a written application with and provide appropriate proof  
11 of identification to the state registrar; and

12 (4) If included with the copy of the original birth certificate,  
13 agree in writing to abide by the birth parent's preference stated in the  
14 contact preference form attached to the adopted person's original birth  
15 certificate in accordance with section 193.132.

16 3. The state registrar may require a waiting period and impose  
17 a fee for issuance of the uncertified copy under subsection 4 of this  
18 section. The fees and waiting period imposed under this subsection  
19 shall be identical to the fees and waiting period generally imposed on  
20 persons seeking their own birth certificates.

21 4. Upon receipt of a written application and proof of  
22 identification under subsection 2 of this section and fulfillment of the  
23 requirements of subsection 3 of this section, the state registrar shall  
24 issue an uncertified copy of the unaltered original birth certificate to  
25 the applicant. The copy of the birth certificate shall have the following  
26 statement printed on it: "for informational purposes only - not to be  
27 used for establishing identity". If a contact preference and medical  
28 history form has been completed and submitted to the state registrar  
29 under section 193.132, the state registrar shall also provide such  
30 information.

31 5. The provisions of subsections 1 to 4 of this section shall not  
32 apply to adoptions instituted or completed prior to August 28, 2010,  
33 except that a copy of a medical history form, which has had all  
34 identifying information redacted, shall be issued to such adopted  
35 person. For adoptions instituted or completed prior to August 28, 2010,  
36 the state registrar shall follow the provisions of this subsection and  
37 shall release the original certificate of birth only if the birth mother is  
38 deceased. If the birth mother is not deceased, the state registrar shall,  
39 within three months of application by the adopted person, make  
40 reasonable efforts to contact the birth mother via telephone or United  
41 States mail, personally and confidentially, to obtain the birth mother's  
42 consent or denial to release the original certificate of birth. The state  
43 registrar may work in conjunction with child placing agencies or

44 juvenile court personnel to make the contact and to conduct the  
45 search. The state registrar may charge actual costs to the adopted  
46 person for the cost of making such search of the birth mother. If the  
47 state registrar has been unable to contact the birth mother within three  
48 months, the state registrar shall not release the certificate of  
49 birth. The adopted person may re-apply for a copy of his or her  
50 original certificate of birth within one year from the end of the three-  
51 month period during which the attempted contact with the birth  
52 mother was previously made. The state registrar shall not release the  
53 certificate of birth until the birth mother submits a subsequent written  
54 consent for release.

55       6. The state registrar shall develop by rule the application form  
56 required by this section and may adopt other rules for the  
57 administration of this section. Any rule or portion of a rule, as that  
58 term is defined in section 536.010, that is created under the authority  
59 delegated in this section shall become effective only if it complies with  
60 and is subject to all of the provisions of chapter 536, and, if applicable,  
61 section 536.028. This section and chapter 536, are nonseverable and if  
62 any of the powers vested with the general assembly pursuant to chapter  
63 536, to review, to delay the effective date, or to disapprove and annul  
64 a rule are subsequently held unconstitutional, then the grant of  
65 rulemaking authority and any rule proposed or adopted after August  
66 28, 2010, shall be invalid and void.

67       7. Nothing in this section shall be construed as violating the  
68 provisions of section 453.121.

193.132. 1. As used in this section, the following terms mean:

2       (1) "Adoptee", the person who is the subject of a birth certificate;

3       (2) "Birth parent", the person who is the biological parent of an  
4 adoptee and who is named as the parent on the original birth  
5 certificate of the adoptee;

6       (3) "Contact preference form", the form developed by the state  
7 registrar under subsection 4 of this section;

8       (4) "Medical history form", the form developed by the state  
9 registrar under subsection 3 of this section. At a minimum, such form  
10 shall include medical history information regarding:

11       (a) Congenital or genetic history;

12       (b) Psychosocial history;

13           **(c) Chronic diseases;**  
14           **(d) Infectious diseases;**  
15           **(e) Allergies;**  
16           **(f) Pregnancy and birth history; and**  
17           **(g) Deaths of birth family members that may affect the medical**  
18 **history.**

19           **2. Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the state registrar**  
20 **shall develop and, upon request, provide each birth parent with a**  
21 **contact preference form and a medical history form as described in this**  
22 **section.**

23           **3. A birth parent may use a medical history form to describe his**  
24 **or her medical history. A birth parent shall fill out a medical history**  
25 **form if such birth parent also fills out a contact preference form.**

26           **4. The birth parent may state a preference regarding contact by**  
27 **an adoptee on a contact preference form. The form shall contain the**  
28 **following statements from which the birth parent may choose only one:**

29           **(1) "I would like to be contacted. I have completed this contact**  
30 **preference form and a medical history form and am filing both forms**  
31 **with the State Registrar.";**

32           **(2) "I would prefer to be contacted only through an intermediary.**  
33 **I have completed this contact preference form and a medical history**  
34 **form and am filing both with the State Registrar."; or**

35           **(3) "Do not contact me. I may change this preference by filling**  
36 **out another contact preference form. I have completed this contact**  
37 **preference form and a medical history form and am filing both with the**  
38 **State Registrar."**

39           **5. Upon receipt of a completed contact preference form and a**  
40 **medical history form, the state registrar shall attach the completed**  
41 **forms to the original birth certificate of the adoptee. A completed**  
42 **contact preference form and medical history form shall have the same**  
43 **level of confidentiality as the original birth certificate.**

44           **6. The state registrar shall develop by rule the forms required by**  
45 **this section and may adopt other rules for the administration of this**  
46 **section. Any rule or portion of a rule, as that term is defined in section**  
47 **536.010, that is created under the authority delegated in this section**  
48 **shall become effective only if it complies with and is subject to all of**  
49 **the provisions of chapter 536, and, if applicable, section 536.028. This**

50 **section and chapter 536, are nonseverable and if any of the powers**  
51 **vested with the general assembly pursuant to chapter 536, to review, to**  
52 **delay the effective date, or to disapprove and annul a rule are**  
53 **subsequently held unconstitutional, then the grant of rulemaking**  
54 **authority and any rule proposed or adopted after August 28, 2010, shall**  
55 **be invalid and void.**

56 **7. Nothing in this section shall be construed as violating the**  
57 **provisions of section 453.121.**

193.255. 1. The state registrar and other custodians of vital records  
2 authorized by the state registrar to issue certified copies of vital records upon  
3 receipt of application shall issue a certified copy of any vital record in his **or her**  
4 custody or a part thereof to any applicant having a direct and tangible interest  
5 in the vital record. Each copy issued shall show the date of registration, and  
6 copies issued from records marked "Delayed" or "Amended" shall be similarly  
7 marked and show the effective date. The documentary evidence used to establish  
8 a delayed certificate shall be shown on all copies issued. All forms and  
9 procedures used in the issuance of certified copies of vital records in the state  
10 shall be provided or approved by the state registrar. **In accordance with**  
11 **sections 193.128 and 193.132, the state registrar and other custodians**  
12 **of vital records authorized by the state registrar to issue copies of vital**  
13 **records shall issue an uncertified copy of an original birth certificate,**  
14 **contact preference form, and medical history form to an adopted**  
15 **person. The state registrar may impose a minimal fee to the adopted**  
16 **person for the costs of providing copies of the contact preference form**  
17 **and medical history form.**

18 2. A certified copy of a vital record or any part thereof, issued in  
19 accordance with subsection 1 of this section, shall be considered for all purposes  
20 the same as the original and shall be prima facie evidence of the facts stated  
21 therein, provided that the evidentiary value of a certificate or record filed more  
22 than one year after the event, or a record which has been amended, shall be  
23 determined by the judicial or administrative body or official before whom the  
24 certificate is offered as evidence.

25 3. The federal agency responsible for national vital statistics may be  
26 furnished such copies or data from the system of vital statistics as it may require  
27 for national statistics, provided such federal agency share in the cost of collecting,  
28 processing, and transmitting such data, and provided further that such data shall

29 not be used for other than statistical purposes by the federal agency unless so  
30 authorized by the state registrar.

31 4. Federal, state, local and other public or private agencies may, upon  
32 request, be furnished copies or data of any other vital statistics not obtainable  
33 under subsection 1 of this section for statistical or administrative purposes upon  
34 such terms or conditions as may be prescribed by regulation, provided that such  
35 copies or data shall not be used for purposes other than those for which they were  
36 requested unless so authorized by the state registrar.

37 5. The state registrar may, by agreement, transmit copies of records and  
38 other reports required by sections 193.005 to 193.325 to offices of vital statistics  
39 outside this state when such records or other reports relate to residents of those  
40 jurisdictions or persons born in those jurisdictions. This agreement shall require  
41 that the copies be used for statistical and administrative purposes only, and the  
42 agreement shall further provide for the retention and disposition of such  
43 copies. Copies received by the department from offices of vital statistics in other  
44 states shall be handled in the same manner as prescribed in this section.

45 6. No person shall prepare or issue any certificate which purports to be  
46 an original, certified copy, or copy of a vital record except as authorized herein  
47 or by regulations adopted hereunder.

48 7. Upon application from either parent, or if both parents are deceased,  
49 the sibling of the stillborn child, pursuant to subsection 7 of section 193.165, the  
50 state registrar or other custodians of vital records shall issue to such applicant  
51 a certificate of birth resulting in stillbirth. The certificate shall be based upon  
52 the information available from the spontaneous fetal death report filed pursuant  
53 to section 193.165. Any certificate of birth resulting in stillbirth issued shall  
54 conspicuously include, in no smaller than twelve-point type, the statement "This  
55 is not proof of a live birth.". No certificate of birth resulting in stillbirth shall be  
56 issued to any person other than a parent, or if both parents are deceased, the  
57 sibling of the stillborn child who files an application pursuant to section  
58 193.165. The state registrar or other custodians of vital records are authorized  
59 to charge a minimal fee to such applicant to cover the actual costs of providing  
60 the certificate pursuant to this section.

61 8. Any parent, or if both parents are deceased, any sibling of the stillborn  
62 child may file an application for a certificate of birth resulting in stillbirth for a  
63 birth that resulted in stillbirth prior to August 28, 2004.

453.170. 1. When an adoption occurs pursuant to the laws of other states



2 of the United States, Missouri shall, from the date of adoption hold the adopted  
3 person to be for every purpose the lawful child of its parent or parents by  
4 adoption as fully as though born to them in lawful wedlock, and such adoption  
5 shall have the same force and effect as adoption pursuant to the provisions of this  
6 chapter, including all inheritance rights.

7         2. When an adoption occurs in a foreign country and the adopted child has  
8 migrated to the United States with the permission of the United States  
9 Department of Justice and the United States Department of Immigration and  
10 Naturalization Services, this state shall recognize the adoption. The department  
11 of health and senior services, upon receipt of proof of adoption as required in  
12 subsection [7] 9 of section 193.125, RSMo, shall issue a birth certificate for the  
13 adopted child upon request on forms prescribed and furnished by the state  
14 registrar pursuant to section 193.125, RSMo.

15         3. The adoptive parent or parents may petition the court pursuant to this  
16 section to request a change of name. The petition shall include a certified copy  
17 of the decree of adoption issued by the foreign country and documentation from  
18 the United States Department of Justice and the United States Department of  
19 Immigration and Naturalization Services which shows the child lawfully entered  
20 the United States. The court shall recognize and give effect to the decree of the  
21 foreign country and grant a decree of recognition of the adoption and shall change  
22 the name of the adopted child to the name given by the adoptive parent, if such  
23 a request has been made.

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