

*Colorado Legislative Council Staff Fiscal Note*

**STATE and LOCAL  
FISCAL IMPACT**

**Drafting Number:** LLS 15-0185  
**Prime Sponsor(s):** Rep. Saine

**Date:** February 6, 2015  
**Bill Status:** House Public Health Care and Human Services  
**Fiscal Analyst:** Bill Zepernick (303-866-4777)

**BILL TOPIC:** CLARIFY ACCESS TO UNREDACTED ADOPTION RECORDS

<b>Fiscal Impact Summary*</b>	<b>FY 2015-2016</b>	<b>FY 2016-2017</b>
<b>State Revenue</b> Cash Funds	Minimal increase.	
<b>State Expenditures</b> Cash Funds	Minimal increase. See State Expenditures section.	
<b>FTE Position Change</b>		
<b>Appropriation Required:</b> None.		

\* This summary shows changes from current law under the bill for each fiscal year.

**Summary of Legislation**

The bill clarifies that persons who are able to request and receive certain adoption records under current law may have access to unredacted versions of these records. These types of documents include birth certificates, final decrees of adoption, final orders of relinquishment, orders for termination of parental rights, as well as any personally identifying and non-identifying information relating to the adoptee or his or her birth parents .

**Background**

Senate Bill 14-051 eliminated different standards of access to adoption records for adoptees, birth parents, and adoptive parents, as well as their descendants, based on the law in existence on the date the adoption was finalized. It also made changes concerning the contact preference form completed by birth parents relinquishing a child for adoption and the associated procedures used by the Department of Public Health and Environment concerning access to birth certificates by adoptees.

**State Revenue**

To the extent additional requests for unredacted adoption records increase under the bill, the Department of Public Health and Environment may have additional fee revenue to the Vital Statistics Records Cash Fund. Any revenue increase is assumed to be minimal.

**TABOR Impact**

This bill may increase state revenue from fees, which could increase the amount required to be refunded under TABOR.

**State Expenditures**

The Department of Public Health and Environment, the Department of Human Services, and the Judicial Department maintain adoption records that may be requested by the public. The clarification that these records are unredacted may increase the number of requests received by a minimal amount. No changes in appropriations are necessary to address this potential workload.

**Local Government Impact**

To the extent that expanded access to unredacted adoption records increases the number of requests received, counties may have additional revenue and workload under the bill. For example, county clerks may receive additional requests for birth certificates and county departments of human services may receive inquiries concerning records held by the county departments or by child placement agencies. It is assumed that any impact will be minimal.

**Effective Date**

The bill takes effect upon signature of the Governor, or upon becoming law without his signature, and applies to requests and applications for access after this date.

**State and Local Government Contacts**

Human Services  
County Clerks

Judicial  
Counties

Public Health and Environment