

Department of Planning and Budget

2022 Fiscal Impact Statement

1. Bill Number: HB869-H1

House of Origin	<input type="checkbox"/> Introduced	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Substitute	<input type="checkbox"/> Engrossed
Second House	<input type="checkbox"/> In Committee	<input type="checkbox"/> Substitute	<input type="checkbox"/> Enrolled

2. Patron: Brewer

3. Committee: Courts of Justice

4. Title: Adoption.

5. Summary: Allows a circuit court, upon consideration of a petition for adoption, to immediately enter an interlocutory order referring the case to a child-placing agency to conduct a visitation instead of entering an order of reference referring the case to a child-placing agency for investigation and makes other amendments to accommodate for and bolster this change. The bill allows petitions for adoption submitted by the persons listed as the child's parents on his birth certificate to be filed and granted under the provisions governing stepparent adoptions. The substitute bill prohibits putative fathers from registering with the Virginia Birth Father Registry if 180 days have elapsed from the date the circuit court entered the final order of adoption and in certain other instances set forth in the bill. Additionally, the bill allows written notice of an adoption plan to be sent to a putative father by express mail with proof of delivery in addition to delivery by personal service or certified mailing as in current law.

6. Budget Amendment Necessary: No.

7. Fiscal Impact Estimates: See Item 8.

8. Fiscal Implications: This bill does not have a fiscal impact. The legislation removes the Department of Social Services' (DSS) authority to register a father's submitted application in the Virginia Birth Father Registry if 180 days have elapsed for the date the circuit court entered the final order of adoption or if the putative father has not registered within a certain period of being notified before the birth of the child.

Additionally, this legislation requires that DSS track "Reports of Visitation" received from the circuit court regarding private adoptions. The information technology (IT) department at DSS is currently working on modifications to the child welfare information system that would allow the agency to track "Reports of Investigation" received from the circuit court regarding private adoptions. This legislation will require that DSS modify this IT request to include a drop down box for "Reports of Visitation". This fiscal impact will be minimal and can be absorbed within existing appropriation.

Furthermore, the bill would allow written notice of an adoption plan to be sent to a putative father by express mail with proof of delivery, in addition to the current delivery options of delivery by personal service or certified mailing.

9. Specific Agency or Political Subdivisions Affected: Department of Social Services, local departments of social services, Courts

10. Technical Amendment Necessary: No.

11. Other Comments: None.