



**House  
Legislative  
Analysis  
Section**

Olds Plaza Building, 10th Floor  
Lansing, Michigan 48909  
Phone: 517/373-6466

**ADOPTION PAMPHLET**

House Bill 4614 as enrolled  
Second Analysis (8-18-94)

Sponsor: Rep. Tracey Yokich  
House Committee: Judiciary  
Senate Committee: Family Law, Mental  
Health, and Corrections

***THE APPARENT PROBLEM:***

Sometimes adoptive parents of children with special needs are not told of the availability of support subsidies, which can be a critical oversight for the parents and the child, as eligibility for a support subsidy must be determined before an adoption petition is filed. (For a medical subsidy, eligibility demands that the medical problem or its cause existed before the adoption petition was filed or the subsidy was sought, whichever occurred first.) To ensure that adoptive parents have the chance to apply for support subsidies for which their adoptive children may qualify, legislation has been proposed to require the distribution of a pamphlet describing the subsidy program.

In a related matter, proposals to allow direct placement adoptions assisted by adoption attorneys, rather than adoption agencies, have raised concerns about the need to also ensure that prospective adoptive parents and biological parents know their rights and how to obtain information on adoption facilitators (whether they be attorneys or adoption agencies) and on available adoption services. To meet this need, the concept of an adoption subsidy pamphlet has been broadened to include other categories of important information regarding adoption in Michigan.

***THE CONTENT OF THE BILL:***

The bill would amend the Social Welfare Act to require the Department of Social Services (DSS) to prepare and distribute to adoption facilitators and other interested persons a pamphlet describing the adoption process and the adoption subsidy program. The DSS would provide a copy of the pamphlet to each prospective adoptive parent before placing a child with that parent.

The pamphlet's description of the adoption process would include: steps and options in completing an

adoption; a description of adoption services typically available from each type of adoption facilitator; recommended questions for biological parents and prospective adoptive parents to ask adoption facilitators; a list of the rights and responsibilities of biological parents and prospective adoptive parents; a statement about the existence of the children's ombudsman (to be established under Senate Bill 723); and, a statement about the importance and availability of counseling for all parties to an adoption.

The pamphlet also would have to include a description of the information services available to biological and prospective adoptive parents including, but not limited to, the registry of adoptive homes established and maintained by the DSS; the directory of children produced under the foster care and adoption services act (to be created by Senate Bill 722); and the public information forms to be maintained by the DSS under House Bill 4201.

The bill would take effect January 1, 1995, but could not take effect unless the following bills, all of which address various matters of foster care and adoption, also were enacted: Senate Bills 299, 721, 722, 723, 724, 725, and House Bills 4201, 4428, and 4638.

MCL 400.115m

***FISCAL IMPLICATIONS:***

The Senate Fiscal Agency reported that the costs of printing the pamphlet would increase state spending by less than \$1,000 per year. (3-15-94)

***ARGUMENTS:***

***For:***

The bill would ensure that vital information regarding adoption processes and rights was

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compiled in one concise document. And, in conjunction with Senate Bill 722, which would require adoption facilitators to distribute adoption information pamphlets, the bill would ensure that the information was distributed to biological parents and prospective adoptive parents. Using the basic knowledge gained through the pamphlet, readers should be able to evaluate adoption facilitators, learn how to obtain important adoption-related services and subsidies, and successfully negotiate the adoption process.