

JANUARY 25, 2023

HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE

SB 2327

SUBMITTED BY:

SEN DAVID CLEMENS

DIST 16

I AM HERE TO INTRODUCE SB 2327 THAT WOULD CREATE A FATHER'S ADOPTION REGISTRY RELATING TO PETITION FOR ADOPTION AND RELINQUISHMENT OF PARENTAL RIGHTS.

2327 proposes updating and replacing the requirement for publication for an unknown birth father in adoption proceedings. It does not remove the current requirement for reasonable effort to be put in to contact a known birth father to make him aware of the proceedings and/or to serve him notice of the termination of parental rights hearing. In today's age of technology and consumer media, publishing in a newspaper is not a realistic or reasonable way to expect a birth father to become aware of adoption proceedings. A registry will protect the rights of a birth father by offering him a neutral, consistent, up to date service where he can go to be informed and involved in his child's life and/or the adoption process. In addition to this, a registry will remove the obligation from the birth mother to inform or track down a birth father and will protect the privacy of the birth mother, the birth father, and the child.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED,

SEN CLEMENS