

**Sixty-eighth Legislative Assembly of North Dakota
In Regular Session Commencing Tuesday, January 3, 2023**

SENATE BILL NO. 2321
(Senator Hogan)
(Representatives Dobervich, O'Brien, Schreiber-Beck)

AN ACT to provide for a legislative management study regarding open adoption policies.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF NORTH DAKOTA:

SECTION 1. LEGISLATIVE MANAGEMENT STUDY - OPEN ADOPTION POLICIES REVIEW.

During the 2023-24 interim, the legislative management shall consider studying the state's policies and relevant case law regarding open adoptions to determine the feasibility and desirability for legislation relating to clarifying communication and the rights of biological parents.

1. The study must include:
 - a. Existing state policies regarding open adoptions;
 - b. The current practices of collection and storage of personal, contact, and medical information of biological parents;
 - c. Benefits and consequences of adopting legislation that would extend legal enforceability to open adoption agreements;
 - d. Best practices for keeping birth children and their adoptive parents aware of health complications in biological family members over time;
 - e. Any information relevant to open adoption or open adoption agreements that the legislative management deems important in understanding the totality of the issue;
 - f. The potential financial costs to adoptive families, adoption agencies, and the court system; and
 - g. Any barriers to extending legal enforceability to open adoption agreements in the state of North Dakota.
2. The legislative management may seek the assistance of the department of health and human services and adoption agencies that partner with the state of North Dakota.
3. The legislative management shall report its findings and recommendations, together with any legislation necessary to implement the recommendations, to the sixty-ninth legislative assembly.

President of the Senate

Speaker of the House

Secretary of the Senate

Chief Clerk of the House

This certifies that the within bill originated in the Senate of the Sixty-eighth Legislative Assembly of North Dakota and is known on the records of that body as Senate Bill No. 2321.

Senate Vote: Yeas 46 Nays 0 Absent 1

House Vote: Yeas 91 Nays 1 Absent 2

Secretary of the Senate

Received by the Governor at _____ M. on _____, 2023.

Approved at _____ M. on _____, 2023.

Governor

Filed in this office this _____ day of _____, 2023,

at _____ o'clock _____ M.

Secretary of State