

H.629

An act relating to access to adoption records

The Senate proposes to the House to amend the bill as follows:

First: In Sec. 4, 15A V.S.A. § 6-106, by striking out “2024” and inserting in lieu thereof 2023

Second: In Sec. 5, 15A V.S.A. § 6-107, in subsection (c), by striking out subdivision (2) in its entirety and inserting in lieu thereof the following:

(2) A contact preference form shall include space where the parent may include information that the parent feels is important for the adoptee to know.

(3) A contact preference form may be withdrawn or revised at any time.

Third: In Sec. 8, implementation, by striking out “September” and inserting in lieu thereof October

Fourth: By adding a new section to be Sec. 8a to read as follows:

Sec. 8a. VERMONT STATE ARCHIVES AND RECORDS

ADMINISTRATION; REPORT ON RECORDS OF CHILDREN

PLACED IN FOSTER HOMES OR RESIDENTIAL CHILD CARE

FACILITIES

On or before January 15, 2023, the Vermont State Archives and Records Administration, in consultation with the Department for Children and Families and other interested parties, shall submit to the Senate Committees on Government Operations and on Health and Welfare and the House Committees

on Government Operations and on Human Services a written report containing:

(1) a historical overview of the laws governing records related to children who were placed by a child-placing agency in foster homes or residential child care facilities and who are not adopted;

(2) a narrative explanation of:

(A) the records that may exist concerning these children; and

(B) who acts as the custodians of the records; and

(3) a recommendation for legislation to ensure that these children have access to records concerning their background, medical history, and other pertinent information relating to their time under the care and supervision of an agency.

Fifth: In Sec. 9, effective dates, by striking out subsection (a) in its entirety and inserting in lieu thereof a new subsection (a) to read as follows:

(a) This section and Secs. 1, 8, and 8a shall take effect on passage.

Sixth: In Sec. 9, effective dates, in subsection (b), by striking out “2024” and inserting in lieu thereof 2023