



**LEGISLATIVE FISCAL OFFICE**  
**Fiscal Note**

Fiscal Note On: **SB 392** SLS 18RS 202  
 Bill Text Version: **ORIGINAL**  
 Opp. Chamb. Action:  
 Proposed Amd.:  
 Sub. Bill For.:

<b>Date:</b> April 24, 2018	9:34 AM	<b>Author:</b> CARTER
<b>Dept./Agy.:</b> DCFS		<b>Analyst:</b> Tanesha Morgan
<b>Subject:</b> Adoption records		

CHILDREN OR +\$358,676 GF EX See Note Page 1 of 2  
 Provides relative to adoption records by adopted persons

Present law provides for a voluntary registry, maintained by the Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS), for matching adoptees, birth parents, biological siblings or their descendants. Proposed law provides for a contact preference form and an statement of family history form to be updated every five years to be added to the registry. Proposed law allows adopted persons that are 18 years of age or older to request a non-certified copy of their original birth certificate from the State Registrar of Vital Records within the Louisiana Department of Health (LDH) only if the birth parent has consented to its release. Proposed law provides for one-year public awareness campaign by DCFS.

<b>EXPENDITURES</b>	<b>2018-19</b>	<b>2019-20</b>	<b>2020-21</b>	<b>2021-22</b>	<b>2022-23</b>	<b>5 -YEAR TOTAL</b>
State Gen. Fd.	\$358,676	\$247,835	\$201,711	\$209,454	\$217,503	<b>\$1,235,179</b>
Agy. Self-Gen.	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	<b>\$0</b>
Ded./Other	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	<b>\$0</b>
Federal Funds	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	<b>\$0</b>
Local Funds	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$0</u>	<b><u>\$0</u></b>
<b>Annual Total</b>	<b>\$358,676</b>	<b>\$247,835</b>	<b>\$201,711</b>	<b>\$209,454</b>	<b>\$217,503</b>	<b>\$1,235,179</b>

  

<b>REVENUES</b>	<b>2018-19</b>	<b>2019-20</b>	<b>2020-21</b>	<b>2021-22</b>	<b>2022-23</b>	<b>5 -YEAR TOTAL</b>
State Gen. Fd.	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	<b>\$0</b>
Agy. Self-Gen.	SEE BELOW	SEE BELOW	SEE BELOW	SEE BELOW	SEE BELOW	
Ded./Other	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	<b>\$0</b>
Federal Funds	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	<b>\$0</b>
Local Funds	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$0</u>	<b><u>\$0</u></b>
<b>Annual Total</b>						

**EXPENDITURE EXPLANATION**

This legislation is anticipated to increase state expenditures by \$358,676 in FY 19. Expenditures in the Office of Public Health (OPH) are anticipated to increase by \$83,618 in FY 19 as the result of adding two new positions to implement a new filing system and process non-certified original birth records requests. The OPH anticipates a new filing system will have to be developed so that all sealed adoptive birth certificates can be consistently filed (by birth year) and searchable by all Vital Records staff. As a result of adding two new positions to update the Louisiana Voluntary Registry and coordinate with OPH to distribute birth certificates and to implement a public awareness campaign, expenditures in the Department of Children and Family Services are anticipated to increase by \$275,058 in FY 19.

**Louisiana Department of Health**

Information from Vital Records indicates 2 years will be required to develop a new filing system. This will allow the agency to streamline antiquated filing systems and update work processes in order to best accommodate the requirements of the proposed legislation and easily unseal adoption records. Since this measure is retrospective, Vital Records anticipates it will need to hire 2 additional Administrative Coordinators to restructure the existing filing system, which currently contains approximately 200,000 sealed adoption records, and handle the workload increase associated with re-filing all sealed records accordingly. One coordinator will develop the new filing system over a 2-year temporary appointment, and the other will be a permanent employee to process the anticipated influx of requests for unsealing original birth records of adoptions as they are received while also assisting with the development of the new filing system. Currently, it takes OPH approximately 3-5 hours to process requests for a birth certificate and 1 week to process requests to unseal adoptive birth records. In addition, OPH anticipates operating and equipment expenses associated with the purchase of items such as computers, cabinets, chairs, office supplies, archival boxes, and envelopes.

	<u>FY 19</u>	<u>FY 20</u>	<u>FY 21</u>	<u>FY 22</u>	<u>FY 23</u>
1 - Admin Coord 3 (2-year temp)	\$37,723	\$ 51,301	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0
1 - Admin Coord 3	\$37,723	\$ 51,301	\$53,353	\$55,487	\$57,707
Operating supplies and equipment	<u>\$ 8,172</u>	<u>\$ 4,942</u>	<u>\$ 2,471</u>	<u>\$ 2,471</u>	<u>\$ 2,471</u>
Total	<u>\$83,618</u>	<u>\$107,544</u>	<u>\$55,824</u>	<u>\$57,958</u>	<u>\$60,178</u>

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**REVENUE EXPLANATION**

This measure provides that the DCFS may assess registration and renewal fees of \$25 to birth parents, biological siblings, and an adoptee that submits information to the registry. The Legislative Fiscal Office cannot anticipate the amount of fees that DCFS may collect from registrations and renewals.

Senate Dual Referral Rules  
 13.5.1 >= \$100,000 Annual Fiscal Cost {S&H}  
 13.5.2 >= \$500,000 Annual Tax or Fee Change {S&H}

House  
 6.8(F)(1) >= \$100,000 SGF Fiscal Cost {H & S}  
 6.8(G) >= \$500,000 Tax or Fee Increase or a Net Fee Decrease {S}

*Evan Brasseaux*  
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 Staff Director

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**CONTINUED EXPLANATION from page one:**

**Continue from Page 1**

**Note:**

Due to confidentiality, only the State Registrar and the Deputy State Registrar have access to sealed adoption envelopes. Under Louisiana law, Vital Records Registry (VRR) must maintain birth records for 100 years after the year of birth. Currently, the VRR maintains birth records from 1907 to the present (approximately 6.9 M records). In FY 17, OPH processed 208,152 requests for certified copies of birth certificates and issued 60,447 birth certificates each year. Although the exact number of requests for non-certified original birth is unknown, OPH estimates an average of 500 requests annually.

Existing Adoptive Birth Records Storage System

Since 1907, there have been three different methods of filing sealed envelopes containing birth records for adoptions. Presently, adoptive birth records are placed in sealed envelopes and filed in storage boxes according by year of adoption and post adoption name. Beginning in 2000, adoptive birth records were stored in alphabetical order as well as by year of adoption. Prior to 2000, older adoptive birth records are stored only by year of adoption. According to the agency, it takes approximately 1 week to process a request to unseal adoptive birth records. When an Order of Disclosure is received by Vital Records, rarely does the Order of Disclosure contain the year of adoption. Most adopted persons do not know the year that they were adopted. As a result, it takes 1 week to search the numerous boxes of stored adoptive records.

**Department of Children and Family Services**

The proposed legislation requires the Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS), which maintains the Louisiana Voluntary Registry, to develop a contact preference form and a statement of family history for birth parents to complete and file with the adoption registry. Every 5 years, DCFS must contact birth parents to update the family history statements. DCFS anticipates it will need to hire 2 additional staff to update the Louisiana Voluntary Registry and to coordinate with OPH to distribute birth certificates. DCFS anticipates operating and supplies expenses for the new employees associated with cost such as office supplies, copying, and telephone charges. The LFO anticipates that there will be an increase in workload associated with maintaining the registry; however, the number of additional personnel needed will ultimately depend on the number of birth parents and adoptees that participate in the voluntary registry. Note: There are approximately 1,200 adoptions each year.

In addition, the proposed legislation requires DCFS to undertake a one-year-long public awareness campaign from September 1, 2018 through August 31, 2019 that includes the following: (1) public service announcements and press releases to local and national radio stations and newspapers, if the national advertising is at no cost; (2) updating the DCFS website; (3) send notices to all physician's offices, religious institutions, social welfare organizations, retirements homes, and other relevant organizations and individuals; and (4) coordinate with the Department of Public Safety to place notices in motor vehicle registration renewal application and driver's license renewal application. The Legislative Fiscal Office anticipates a cost of at least \$204,876 to mail out notices as part of statewide public awareness campaign. Costs are estimated as follows: notices to physician's office - \$16,977; notices to churches - \$166,920; nursing homes - \$572; welfare resource organizations - \$19,269; public libraries - \$512; and hospitals - \$146. These estimates are based on projected costs associated with printing of 10 brochures per entity and postage. The anticipated cost associated with the design of the brochure is \$480. Additional costs may occur if additional entities not listed above are identified.

	<u>FY 19</u>	<u>FY 20</u>	<u>FY 21</u>	<u>FY 22</u>	<u>FY 23</u>
1 - Child Welfare Consultant	\$ 41,657	\$ 86,647	\$ 90,113	\$93,718	\$ 97,467
1 - Admin Asst 3	\$ 21,175	\$ 44,044	\$ 45,806	\$47,638	\$ 49,544
Operating and office supplies	\$ 7,350	\$ 9,600	\$ 9,968	\$10,140	\$ 10,315
<u>Campaign cost</u>	<u>\$204,876</u>	<u>\$ 0</u>	<u>\$ 0</u>	<u>\$ 0</u>	<u>\$ 0</u>
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$275,058</b>	<b>\$140,291</b>	<b>\$145,887</b>	<b>\$151,496</b>	<b>\$157,325</b>

**Department of Public Safety**

The proposed legislation requires the Department of Public Safety (DPS) to print information regarding the campaign on the outside of every motor vehicle registration renewal application and driver's license renewal application envelope issued by the Office of Motor Vehicles. DPS does not anticipate additional cost associated with adding this printed information on the outside of the envelopes.

Senate  
 13.5.1 >= \$100,000 Annual Fiscal Cost {S&H}  
 13.5.2 >= \$500,000 Annual Tax or Fee Change {S&H}

House  
 6.8(F)(1) >= \$100,000 SGF Fiscal Cost {H & S}  
 6.8(G) >= \$500,000 Tax or Fee Increase or a Net Fee Decrease {S}

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