



RESTORE OHIO ADOPTEE RIGHTS IN 2013!



www.AdoptionEquityOhio.org



www.AdoptionNetwork.org

Ohio's Adoptee Rights Bills Companion Bills - S.B. 23 and H.B. 61

Ohio, like many states across the country, is evaluating the issue of adult adoptee access to their original (pre-adoption) birth certificate. In the last 15 years, many states have changed their laws to allow adult adoptees access to this personal document. These include:

Tennessee (1999)	New Hampshire (2005)
Delaware (1999)	Maine (2009)
Oregon (2000)	Illinois (2010)
Alabama (2000)	Rhode Island (2012)

In addition, Kansas and Alaska allow such access as they never restricted it.

Ohio currently has a problematic, inequitable three-tiered system of access. Adoptees born and adopted prior to 1/1/1964 enjoy unrestricted access, upon request, to their original birth certificates. Adoptees born and adopted 1964-1996 do not, and adoptees adopted after September 1996 do, unless their birthparent has denied access.

What this legislation does:

- 1) Adoptees born up to the implementation of H.B. 419 in 1996 will be able to request a copy of the contents of their adoption file from Vital Statistics, which includes the original birth certificate, once they reach age 18.
 - a) This will use the same process that pre-1964 adoptees currently enjoy.
 - b) Lineal descendants of the adoptee will be included, the same way they are currently in pre-1964 adoptions.
- 2) A Contact Preference system will be created.
 - a) A birthparent can voluntarily express his or her desire for or against contact from the adult adoptee, or for contact through a designated intermediary, using a Contact Preference Form.
 - b) If submitted, the form is then released with the contents of the Vital Statistics file, if requested by the adult adoptee.
 - c) The form will encourage the birthparent to also complete a current medical history.
- 3) The new law will be implemented one year from the date of passage.

Over for list of Sponsors and co-sponsors for S.B. 23 and H.B. 61 →

For more information and to get involved, register at www.AdoptionEquityOhio.org, see Adoption Equity Ohio on Facebook, or contact Betsie Norris, Executive Director Adoption Network Cleveland, (216) 325-1000.

Senate Bill 23 Primary Sponsors

**Senators Bill Beagle (R)
and Dave Burke (R)**

Cosponsors, Senators:

1. Frank LaRose (R)
2. Cliff Hite (R)
3. Troy Balderson (R)
4. Michael J. Skindell (D)
5. Tom Patton (R)
6. Bill Seitz (R)
7. Shannon Jones (R)
8. Charleta B. Tavares (D)
9. Randy Gardner (R)
10. Keith Faber (R)
11. Capri Cafaro (D)
12. Edna Brown (D)

September 2013

Status

H.B. 61 and **S.B 23** were introduced on February 12, 2013.

H.B. 61 was reported out of the House Judiciary Committee by unanimous vote on March 13, 2013. It passed in a vote on the floor of the House 96-1 on April 10. It has been referred to the Senate Medicaid, Health and Human Services Committee.

S.B. 23 was reported out of the Senate Medicaid, Health and Human Services Committee by unanimous vote on April 24, 2013. It is awaiting a vote on the Senate floor.

House Bill 61 Primary Sponsors

**Representatives Dorothy Pelanda (R)
and Nickie Antonio (D)**

Cosponsors, Representatives:

1. Terry Blair (R)
2. Michael Stinziano (D)
3. Ron Young (R)
4. Mike Foley (D)
5. Connie Pillich (D)
6. Stephen Slesnick (D)
7. Dale Mallory (D)
8. Debbie Phillips (D)
9. Gerald L. Stebelton (R)
10. Robert F. Hagan (D)
11. Bob D. Hackett (R)
12. Doug Green (R)
13. John Becker (R)
14. Louis Terhar (R)
15. Ronald V. Gerberry (D)
16. Denise Driehaus (D)
17. Brian Hill (R)
18. Stephanie Kunze (R)
19. Ron Maag (R)
20. Fred Strahorn (D)
21. Robert Sprague (R)
22. Lynn R. Watchmann (R)
23. Mike Ashford (D)
24. Matt Lundy (D)
25. Margaret Ann Ruhl (R)
26. Jim Butler (R)
27. Nick Celebrezze (D)
28. Margaret Conditt (R)
29. Tom Letson (D)
30. Marilyn Slaby (R)
31. Peter Stautberg (R)
32. Roland Winburn (D)