

**CHAPTER 679****(House Bill 214)**

AN ACT concerning

**Adoption Search, Contact, and Reunion Services and Access to Birth and Adoption Records**

FOR the purpose of authorizing certain adopted individuals and biological parents to apply to the Director of the Social Services Administration to receive search, contact, and reunion services under certain circumstances; authorizing the Director to charge a reasonable certain fee for certain services; prohibiting certain biological parents from applying to receive search, contact, and reunion services; requiring the Director to maintain a list of confidential intermediaries; establishing certain qualifications for confidential intermediaries; requiring the Director to provide the list of confidential intermediaries to an individual who applies for search, contact, and reunion services except under certain circumstances; requiring the Director to refer an individual who applies for search, contact, and reunion services to the child placement agency that placed the child for adoption under certain circumstances; requiring the Director to make reasonable efforts to determine the identity of the child placement agency that placed the child for adoption under certain circumstances; authorizing the Director to access certain records for certain purposes; requiring an individual who applies for search, contact, and reunion services to execute a certain agreement with a confidential intermediary; authorizing a confidential intermediary to charge a reasonable certain fee for search, contact, and reunion services; requiring a confidential intermediary to file certain documents and attempt to contact certain individuals; authorizing a confidential intermediary to apply to the Secretary of Health and Mental Hygiene for a copy of certain birth records under certain circumstances; authorizing a confidential intermediary to access information contained in a public record under certain circumstances; authorizing a confidential intermediary to disclose certain information under certain circumstances; prohibiting a confidential intermediary from disclosing certain information under certain circumstances; requiring a confidential intermediary to continue to attempt to contact certain individuals for a certain period of time; requiring the Director to adopt certain regulations; authorizing certain individuals to access certain birth and adoption records after a certain date under certain circumstances; authorizing certain individuals to file, cancel, or refile certain documents that prohibit the disclosure of certain information contained in certain birth and adoption records under certain circumstances; requiring the Secretary of Health and Mental Hygiene to adopt certain regulations; establishing that the consent of a natural parent to an adoption or guardianship is not valid unless the consent contains a certain notice; authorizing the seal on certain birth records to be broken under certain circumstances; defining certain terms; providing for a delayed effective date; and generally relating to search, contact, and reunion services and access to certain birth and adoption records.