

- SUBJECT:** Access to records and information regarding a child placed for adoption
- COMMITTEE:** Judiciary and Civil Jurisprudence — favorable, without amendment
- VOTE:** 7 ayes — Lewis, Farrar, Farney, Gooden, K. King, Raymond, S. Thompson
- 0 nays
- 2 absent — Hernandez Luna, Hunter
- SENATE VOTE:** On final passage, April 25 — 30-0, on the Local and Uncontested Calendar
- WITNESSES:** For — David Gross; (*Registered, but did not testify:* Katie Malaspina, Texans Care for Children; Diana Martinez, TexProtects - The Texas Association for the Protection of Children)
- Against — None
- On — (*Registered, but did not testify:* Johnnie Beth Page, Department of Family and Protective Services)
- BACKGROUND:** Family Code, sec. 162.006 requires the Texas Department of Family and Protective Services (DFPS), a licensed child-placing agency, or other person placing a child for adoption to inform prospective parents of their right to examine the child's records, which are edited to protect confidential information, including the identity of the biological parents.
- DIGEST:** SB 1402 would amend Family Code, sec. 162.006 to require that the child's records include any information related to an investigation of abuse in which the child was an alleged or confirmed victim of sexual abuse in a foster home or other residential child-care facility. If the adoption agency or person placing the child for adoption did not have the required information, DFPS would provide the information to the prospective parents.
- The bill would take effect September 1, 2013.