
SENATE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

Senator Sabrina Cervantes, Chair
2025 - 2026 Regular Session

SB 1186 (Seyarto) - Expedited birth certificates upon adoption

Version: April 20, 2026

Urgency: No

Hearing Date: April 27, 2026

Policy Vote: HEALTH 10 - 0

Mandate: No

Consultant: Agnes Lee

Bill Summary: SB 1186 would impose timelines for the State Registrar to establish a new birth certificate, following a report of adoption or readoption order.

Fiscal Impact: Unknown ongoing General Fund costs, potentially tens of thousands, for the California Department of Public Health (CDPH) to comply with the timelines.

Background: The CDPH, which serves as the State Registrar, is charged with maintaining a uniform, comprehensive, and continuous index for all birth, death, fetal death, and marriage events which occur in California. Certified copies of vital records are available from the CDPH, 58 county recorders, and 61 local health jurisdictions.

State law requires a new birth certificate to be established by the State Registrar upon receipt of either of the following:

- A report of adoption from any court of record that has jurisdiction of the child in this state, another state, the District of Columbia, in any territory of the United States, or in any foreign country, for any child born in California and whose certificate of birth is on file in the office of the State Registrar.
- A readoption order, pursuant to existing state law.

Proposed Law: Specific provisions of the bill would:

- Impose a timeline for the State Registrar to establish, within 11 weeks, a new birth certificate as required in existing law following a report of adoption or readoption order.
- Require that, if the State Registrar determines that a report of adoption or readoption order is incomplete, the State Registrar must notify the court that issued the report of adoption or readoption order within 14 weeks to request the missing required documentation; and require the State Registrar to establish a new birth certificate within 11 weeks of receipt of the required documentation.

Related Legislation: SB 381 (Wahab, 2025) would establish a process to provide to an adopted person, or descendant of a deceased adopted person, a copy of the adopted person's original birth certificate. The bill is currently in the Assembly.

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