

Date of Hearing: August 5, 2026

ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

Buffy Wicks, Chair

SB 1186 (Seyarto) – As Amended June 25, 2026

Policy Committee: Health

Vote: 15 - 0

Urgency: No

State Mandated Local Program: No

Reimbursable: No

SUMMARY:

This bill requires the State Registrar to establish a new birth certificate within 11 weeks upon receipt of a report of adoption or a readoption order. If the State Registrar finds that inadequate documentation was provided, this bill requires the State Registrar inform the court or the applicant within 14 weeks to request the missing documentation and issue a new birth certificate within 11 weeks of receiving the proper documents.

FISCAL EFFECT:

The California Department of Public Health (CDPH) estimates costs of approximately \$1.16 million in fiscal year 2026-27 and ongoing to fund eight new staff positions and software licensing (Health Statistics Special Fund).

COMMENTS:

1) **Purpose.** According to the author:

When an adoption is finalized, families can wait close to a year for a new birth certificate that reflects their child's legal name and new status. During this period, parents may struggle to enroll their child in school, access health care, obtain identification or travel documents, or correctly claim their child on their taxes. These delays add stress at the very moment when a child needs stability and reassurance the most in their new home, while undermining the sense of belonging that a finalized adoption is meant to provide. [This bill] sets an eleven-week deadline for the State Registrar to issue a new birth certificate after receiving an adoption report or readoption order, so that California's adoptive families can move forward with accurate documentation and their children can fully integrate into their new families without unnecessary bureaucratic delay.

2) **Background.** According to a report by the National Council for Adoption, in 2023, an estimated 10,597 children were adopted in California.

CDPH's Vital Records Registration Branch is charged with maintaining a uniform, comprehensive, and continuous index for all birth, death, fetal death, and marriage vital events that occur in California. CDPH registers adoptions for adoptees born in California,

regardless of where they were adopted, and individuals who were adopted in California and born outside the U.S., U.S. territories, or Canada. Under existing law, the State Registrar must issue a new birth certificate upon receiving either a court report of adoption or a readoption order, unless otherwise requested by the adopting parents. Existing law does not specify a timeframe for the State Registrar to establish a new birth certificate after adoption or readoption. According to information provided by the author, some families report waiting 49 to 52 weeks for an updated birth certificate. According to CDPH's website, the average time to process an amendment to a vital record is nine to 11 weeks. This bill requires the State Registrar to establish a new birth certificate within 11 weeks of receiving either a report of adoption or a readoption order for children born in California.

- 3) **Related Legislation.** SB 381 (Wahab) requires the State Registrar to provide to an adult adoptee born in California, or to an adult descendant of a deceased adopted person, a copy of the adopted person's original birth certificate upon request, and requires the State Registrar to develop and make available a contact preference form for birth parents. SB 381 is pending in this committee.

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