
SENATE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

Senator Anna Caballero, Chair
2025 - 2026 Regular Session

SB 381 (Wahab) - Vital records: adoptees' birth certificates

Version: January 16, 2026

Urgency: No

Hearing Date: January 22, 2026

Policy Vote: JUD. 13 - 0, HEALTH 7 - 0

Mandate: No

Consultant: Liah Burnley

Bill Summary: SB 381 would require the State Registrar to provide, to an adult adopted person who was born in California, or to a descendant of a deceased adopted person, a copy of the adopted person's original birth certificate, as specified.

******* ANALYSIS ADDENDUM – SUSPENSE FILE *******

**The following information is revised to reflect amendments
adopted by the committee on January 22, 2026**

Fiscal Impact: Unknown, potentially significant costs to the State Registrar within the California Department of Public Health (CDPH) (General Fund) to comply with the requirements of this bill. Specifically, the State Registrar will incur costs to provide to an adopted person a copy of the adopted person's original birth certificate, with an indication it may not be used for identification purposes, and an attached contact preference form, if applicable. The bill allows for some cost recovery by authorizing the department to charge all fees applicable to a nonadopted person's request for a copy of a birth certificate. However, initial funding would be necessary to cover the costs of the contact preference form. The State Registrar will also incur costs to create a contact preference form, to match the contact preference form to the adopted person's original birth certificate, and, on a continuing basis, to replace any previously filed contact preference form with a newly completed contact preference form. CDPH will also incur costs of announcing and publicizing the availability of the contact preference form.

Author Amendments: Add Senators Archuleta, Ashby, Blakespear, Cervantes, Choi, Cortese, McGuire, McNerney, Ochoa Bogh, Pérez, Richardson, Smallwood-Cuevas, Valladares, Wiener and Assemblymember Haney as co-authors.

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