

Date of Hearing: June 24, 2026

ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS  
Buffy Wicks, Chair  
SB 927 (Choi) – As Amended June 3, 2026

Policy Committee: Judiciary Vote: 12 - 0

Urgency: No State Mandated Local Program: No Reimbursable: No

**SUMMARY:**

This bill permits a person of any age born in a foreign country and adopted by a U.S. citizen in another country to petition the family court for a record establishing the facts of the adoption, if the person’s parents and the adoption agency that facilitated the adoption failed to timely file such a petition.

**FISCAL EFFECT:**

Likely minor and absorbable costs to courts to consider readoption petitions, as provided by this bill.

**COMMENTS:**

The federal government has exclusive jurisdiction over naturalization. Under federal law passed in 2001, certain foreign-born biological and adopted children of American citizens are eligible for automatic naturalization without needing to file a formal naturalization application. For those who do not automatically receive citizenship, California law provides two pathways by which the adoptive parent or adoption agency may finalize the adoptee’s citizenship status: a process to finalize adoption in California courts, and a “readoption” petition process to establish a record of adoption in California for adoptions that were already completed out of the country.

Some foreign-born adoptees were ineligible for the automatic citizenship, namely, those adopted before the federal law was implemented, or were 18 or older in 2001. And in those instances, if the adoptee’s adoptive parent or adoption agency did not comply with state court procedure to finalize the intercountry adoption, the adoptee may never have formally obtained U.S. citizenship. This bill seeks to remedy that legal loophole, not by entitling those adoptees to citizenship—something that state cannot do—but, rather, by providing these adult adoptees with access to state documentation, such as a revised birth certificate, which may assist in establishing their citizenship with the federal government.

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