As Passed by the House

130th General Assembly Regular Session 2013-2014

Sub. H. B. No. 307

Representative Buchy

Cosponsors: Representatives Pelanda, Wachtmann, Barnes, Bishoff, Brown, Hottinger, Johnson, Schuring, Sears, Smith, Sprague, Adams, J., Adams, R., Amstutz, Baker, Beck, Blair, Burkley, Conditt, Curtin, Damschroder, Derickson, Duffey, Fedor, Green, Hackett, Hagan, C., Hall, Hayes, Henne, Hill, Huffman, Landis, Maag, McClain, Patmon, Patterson, Pillich, Retherford, Roegner, Rosenberger, Stebelton, Terhar, Thompson, Young Speaker Batchelder

A BILL

То	amend sections 3107.055, 3107.062, 3107.064,	1
	3107.07, 3107.16, 5103.17, 5747.37, and 5747.98	2
	and to enact sections 3107.067, 3107.068,	3
	3107.069, 3107.0610, 3107.0611, 3107.0612,	4
	3107.0613, 3107.0614, 3107.0615, 3107.0616, and	5
	3107.0617 of the Revised Code to require that	6
	certain pre-birth adoption notifications be sent	7
	to each putative father; to reduce the time within	8
	which a putative father must register with the	9
	putative father registry; to reduce the period of	10
	time to appeal an adoption decree; to permit	11
	certain entities to advertise regarding the	12
	adoption of children; to define for purposes of an	13
	adoption "living expenses" of a birth mother and	14
	to specify how they must be paid; and to increase	15
	the adoption income tax credit.	16

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF OHIO:

Section 1. That sections 3107.055, 3107.062, 3107.064,	17
3107.07, 3107.16, 5103.17, 5747.37, and 5747.98 be amended and	18
sections 3107.067, 3107.068, 3107.069, 3107.0610, 3107.0611,	19
3107.0612, 3107.0613, 3107.0614, 3107.0615, 3107.0616, and	20
3107.0617 of the Revised Code be enacted to read as follows:	21
Sec. 3107.055. (A) $\underline{(1)}$ Notwithstanding section 3107.01 of the	22
Revised Code, as used in this section, "agency" does not include a	23
public children services agency.	24
(2) As used in this section, "living expenses" means any of	25
the following expenses incurred by a birth mother:	26
(a) Rental or mortgage payments;	27
(b) Utility payments;	28
(c) Payments for products or services required for the birth	29
mother or minor's sustenance or safety including, but not limited	30
to, food, household goods, personal care items, and the costs of	31
transportation to work or school.	32
(B) An agency or attorney, whichever arranges a minor's	33
adoption, shall file with the court a preliminary estimate	34
accounting not later than the time the adoption petition for the	35
minor is filed with the court. The agency or attorney, whichever	36
arranges the adoption, also shall file a final accounting with the	37
court before a final decree of adoption is issued or an	38
interlocutory order of adoption is finalized for the minor. The	39
agency or attorney shall complete and file accountings in a manner	40
acceptable to the court.	41
An accounting shall specify all disbursements of anything of	42
value the petitioner, a person on the petitioner's behalf, and the	43

agency or attorney made and has agreed to make in connection with
the minor's permanent surrender under division (B) of section
5103.15 of the Revised Code, placement under section 5103.16 of
the Revised Code, and adoption under this chapter. The agency or
attorney shall include in an accounting an itemization of each
expense listed in division (C) of this section. The itemization of
the expenses specified in divisions (C)(3) and (4) of this section
shall show the amount the agency or attorney charged or is going
to charge for the services and the actual cost to the agency or
attorney of providing the services. An accounting shall indicate
whether any expenses listed in division (C) of this section do not
apply to the adoption proceeding for which the accounting is
filed.

The agency or attorney shall include with a preliminary 57 estimate accounting and a final accounting a written statement 58 signed by the petitioner that the petitioner has reviewed the 59 accounting and attests to its accuracy. 60

- (C) No petitioner, person acting on a petitioner's behalf, or
 agency or attorney shall make or agree to make any disbursements
 in connection with the minor's permanent surrender, placement, or
 adoption other than for the following:

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- (1) Physician expenses incurred on behalf of the birth mother
 or minor in connection with prenatal care, delivery, and
 confinement prior to or following the minor's birth;
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- (2) Hospital or other medical facility expenses incurred on behalf of the birth mother or minor in connection with the minor's birth;
- (3) Expenses charged by the attorney arranging the adoption 71 for providing legal services in connection with the placement and 72 adoption, including expenses incurred by the attorney pursuant to 73 sections 3107.031, 3107.032, 3107.081, 3107.082, 3107.09, 74

3107.101, and 3107.12 of the Revised Code;	75
(4) Expenses charged by the agency arranging the adoption for	76
providing services in connection with the permanent surrender and	77
adoption, including the agency's application fee and the expenses	78
incurred by the agency pursuant to sections 3107.031, 3107.032,	79
3107.09, 3107.101, 3107.12, 5103.151, and 5103.152 of the Revised	80
Code;	81
(5) Temporary costs of routine maintenance and medical care	82
for a minor required under section 5103.16 of the Revised Code if	83
the person seeking to adopt the minor refuses to accept placement	84
of the minor;	85
(6) Guardian ad litem fees incurred on behalf of the minor in	86
any court proceedings;	87
(7) Foster care expenses incurred in connection with any	88
temporary care and maintenance of the minor;	89
(8) Court expenses incurred in connection with the minor's	90
permanent surrender, placement, and adoption;	91
(9) Living expenses not exceeding three thousand dollars for	92
the birth mother that are incurred during pregnancy through the	93
sixtieth day after the date the minor is born and paid by the	94
petitioner to the birth mother through the attorney or agency	95
arranging the minor's adoption.	96
(D) If a court determines from an accounting that an amount	97
that is going to be disbursed for an expense listed in division	98
(C) of this section is unreasonable, the court may order a	99
reduction in the amount to be disbursed. If a court determines	100
from an accounting that an unreasonable amount was disbursed for	101
an expense listed in division (C) of this section, the court may	102
order the person who received the disbursement to refund to the	103
person who made the disbursement an amount the court orders.	104

If a court determines from an accounting that a disbursement 105 for an expense not permitted by division (C) of this section is 106 going to be made, the court may issue an injunction prohibiting 107 the disbursement. If a court determines from an accounting that a 108 disbursement for an expense not permitted by division (C) of this 109 section was made, the court may order the person who received the 110 disbursement to return it to the person who made the disbursement. 111

If a court determines that a final accounting does not

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completely report all the disbursements that are going to be made

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or have been made in connection with the minor's permanent

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surrender, placement, and adoption, the court shall order the

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agency or attorney to file with the court an accounting that

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completely reports all such disbursements.

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The agency or attorney shall file the final accounting with

the court not later than ten days prior to the date scheduled for

the final hearing on the adoption. The court may not issue a final

decree of adoption or finalize an interlocutory order of adoption

of a minor until at least ten days after the agency or attorney

files the final accounting.

- (E) An attorney or agency that makes payments for services or items that qualify as living expenses under division (C)(9) of this section shall make a reasonable and good faith effort to make the payments directly to the entity providing the service or item. 127
- (F) This section does not apply to an adoption by a 128 stepparent whose spouse is a biological or adoptive parent of the 129 minor. 130
- sec. 3107.062. The department of job and family services

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 shall establish a putative father registry. To register, a

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 putative father must complete a registration form prescribed under

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 section 3107.065 of the Revised Code and submit it to the

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 department. The registration form shall include the putative

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conceived or born;	167
(2) The parent placing the minor for adoption previously	168
adopted the minor;	169
(3) Prior to the date a petition to adopt the minor is filed,	170
a man has been determined to have a parent and child relationship	171
with the minor by a court proceeding pursuant to sections 3111.01	172
to 3111.18 of the Revised Code, a court proceeding in another	173
state, an administrative agency proceeding pursuant to sections	174
3111.38 to 3111.54 of the Revised Code, or an administrative	175
agency proceeding in another state;	176
(4) The minor's father acknowledged paternity of the minor	177
and that acknowledgment has become final pursuant to section	178
2151.232, 3111.25, or 3111.821 of the Revised Code;	179
(5) A public children services agency has permanent custody	180
of the minor pursuant to Chapter 2151. or division (B) of section	181
5103.15 of the Revised Code after both parents lost or surrendered	182
parental rights, privileges, and responsibilities over the minor.	183
Sec. 3107.067. (A) Before the birth of a child and with the	184
written consent of the mother of the child, any of the following	185
may serve or caused to be served actual notice to a putative	186
father of the child that the mother of the child is considering	187
placing the child for adoption:	188
(1) An agency;	189
(2) An attorney representing the person seeking to adopt the	190
child;	191
(3) An attorney representing the mother of the child.	192
(B) As used in this section, "actual notice" means written	193
notice that is actually received by the putative father and	194
includes personal service or certified mail.	195

Sec. 3107.068. The mother of a child is not obligated to	196
place the child for adoption even if notice is served to a	197
putative father of the child under section 3107.067 of the Revised	198
Code.	199
Sec. 3107.069. (A) If notice to a putative father is served	200
by a party listed in division (A)(1) or (2) of section 3107.067 of	201
the Revised Code, an agency or an attorney representing the person	202
seeking to adopt a child, when filing a petition for adoption of	203
the child, shall submit to the court an affidavit setting forth	204
the circumstances surrounding the service of actual notice	205
including the time, if known, date, and manner in which the actual	206
notice was provided.	207
(B) If notice to a putative father is served by a party	208
listed in division (A)(3) of section 3107.067 of the Revised Code,	209
an agency or an attorney representing the person seeking to adopt	210
a child, when filing a petition for adoption of the child, shall	211
submit to the court an affidavit prepared by the attorney	212
representing the mother of the child setting forth the	213
circumstances surrounding the service of actual notice including	214
the time, if known, date, and manner in which the actual notice	215
was provided.	216
Sec. 3107.0610. For purposes of section 3107.064 of the	217
Revised Code, if notice is served to a putative father in	218
accordance with section 3107.067 of the Revised Code, a court	219
shall not accept a certified document provided by the department	220
of job and family services under section 3107.063 of the Revised	221
Code unless the date the department places on the document	222
pursuant to that section is thirty-one or more days after the date	223
the notice was served.	224

Sec. 3107.0611. Notice served under section 3107.067 of the	225
Revised Code shall be provided to the putative father of the child	226
in substantially the following form:	227
" (putative father's name), who has	228
been named as the father of the unborn child of	229
(birth mother's name), or who claims to	230
be the father of the unborn child, is notified that	231
(birth mother's name) has expressed an	232
intention to place the child for adoption.	233
If (putative father's name) seeks	234
to preserve the requirement of his consent to the adoption of the	235
unborn child, he must register with the Ohio Putative Father	236
Registry not later than thirty days after the receipt of this	237
notice.	238
If (putative father's name) does	239
not register with the Ohio Putative Father Registry within thirty	240
days after receiving this notice, the putative father's consent to	241
the adoption shall be irrevocably implied and the putative father	242
loses the right to contest the adoption or the validity of his	243
implied consent to the adoption.	244
Nothing (birth mother's name) or	245
anyone else says to (putative father's	246
name) relieves (putative father's name)	247
of his obligations under this notice.	248
Under Ohio law, a putative father means a man, including one	249
under age eighteen, who may be a child's father and to whom all of	250
the following apply:	251
(1) He is not married to the child's mother at the time of	252
the child's conception or birth;	253
(2) He has not adopted the child;	254

(3) He has not been determined, prior to the date a petition	255
to adopt the child is filed, to have a parent and child	256
relationship with the child by a court proceeding pursuant to	257
sections 3111.01 to 3111.18 of the Revised Code, a court	258
proceeding in another state, an administrative agency proceeding	259
pursuant to sections 3111.38 to 3111.54 of the Revised Code, or an	260
administrative agency proceeding in another state;	261
(4) He has not acknowledged paternity of the child pursuant	262
to sections 3111.20 to 3111.35 of the Revised Code.	263
For purposes of this notice,	264
(putative father's name) is a putative father under the laws in	265
Ohio regarding adoption."	266
Sec. 3107.0612. A putative father who receives a notice as	267
provided in section 3107.067 of the Revised Code and who wishes to	268
preserve the right to consent to the placement for adoption of the	269
child who is the subject of the notice shall register with the	270
putative father registry not later than thirty days after	271
receiving the notice in the manner provided in section 3107.062 of	272
the Revised Code.	273
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Sec. 3107.0613. Not later than thirty days after receiving a	274
notice under section 3107.067 of the Revised Code, a putative	275
father who has registered with the putative father registry in	276
accordance with section 3107.0612 of the Revised Code shall notify	277
the agency or attorney who served or caused to be served the	278
notice that he is registered with the registry.	279
Sec. 3107.0614. (A) A notice served in accordance with	280
section 3107.067 of the Revised Code on a putative father who is a	281
resident of Ohio is valid regardless of whether the notice is	282
served within or outside Ohio.	283

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(A) A parent of a minor, when it is alleged in the adoption	312
petition and the court, after proper service of notice and	313
hearing, finds by clear and convincing evidence that the parent	314
has failed without justifiable cause to provide more than de	315
minimis contact with the minor or to provide for the maintenance	316
and support of the minor as required by law or judicial decree for	317
a period of at least one year immediately preceding either the	318
filing of the adoption petition or the placement of the minor in	319
the home of the petitioner.	320
(B) The putative father of a minor if either of the following	321
applies:	322
(1) The Except as provided in section 3107.0612 of the	323
Revised Code, the putative father fails to register as the minor's	324
putative father with the putative father registry established	325
under section 3107.062 of the Revised Code not later than thirty	326
seven days after the minor's birth;	327
(2) The court finds, after proper service of notice and	328
hearing, that any of the following are the case:	329
(a) The putative father is not the father of the minor;	330
(b) The putative father has willfully abandoned or failed to	331
care for and support the minor;	332
(c) The putative father has willfully abandoned the mother of	333
the minor during her pregnancy and up to the time of her surrender	334
of the minor, or the minor's placement in the home of the	335
petitioner, whichever occurs first.	336
(C) Except as provided in section 3107.071 of the Revised	337
Code, a parent who has entered into a voluntary permanent custody	338
surrender agreement under division (B) of section 5103.15 of the	339
Revised Code;	340

(D) A parent whose parental rights have been terminated by

order of a juvenile court under Chapter 2151. of the Revised Code;	342
(E) A parent who is married to the petitioner and supports	343
the adoption;	344
(F) The father, or putative father, of a minor if the minor	345
is conceived as the result of the commission of rape by the father	346
or putative father and the father or putative father is convicted	347
of or pleads guilty to the commission of that offense. As used in	348
this division, "rape" means a violation of section 2907.02 of the	349
Revised Code or a similar law of another state.	350
(G) A legal guardian or guardian ad litem of a parent	351
judicially declared incompetent in a separate court proceeding who	352
has failed to respond in writing to a request for consent, for a	353
period of thirty days, or who, after examination of the written	354
reasons for withholding consent, is found by the court to be	355
withholding consent unreasonably;	356
(H) Any legal guardian or lawful custodian of the person to	357
be adopted, other than a parent, who has failed to respond in	358
writing to a request for consent, for a period of thirty days, or	359
who, after examination of the written reasons for withholding	360
consent, is found by the court to be withholding consent	361
unreasonably;	362
(I) The spouse of the person to be adopted, if the failure of	363
the spouse to consent to the adoption is found by the court to be	364
by reason of prolonged unexplained absence, unavailability,	365
incapacity, or circumstances that make it impossible or	366
unreasonably difficult to obtain the consent or refusal of the	367
spouse;	368
(J) Any parent, legal guardian, or other lawful custodian in	369
a foreign country, if the person to be adopted has been released	370
for adoption pursuant to the laws of the country in which the	371

person resides and the release of such person is in a form that

satisfies the requirements of the immigration and naturalization	373
service of the United States department of justice for purposes of	374
immigration to the United States pursuant to section 101(b)(1)(F)	375
of the "Immigration and Nationality Act," 75 Stat. 650 (1961), 8	376
U.S.C. 1101(b)(1)(F), as amended or reenacted.	377
(K) Except as provided in divisions (G) and (H) of this	378

- (K) Except as provided in divisions (G) and (H) of this 378 section, a juvenile court, agency, or person given notice of the 379 petition pursuant to division (A)(1) of section 3107.11 of the 380 Revised Code that fails to file an objection to the petition 381 within fourteen days after proof is filed pursuant to division (B) 382 of that section that the notice was given; 383
- (L) Any guardian, custodian, or other party who has temporary

 custody of the child.

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- Sec. 3107.16. (A) Appeals from the probate court are subject 386 to the Rules of Appellate Procedure and, to the extent not in 387 conflict with those rules, Chapter 2505. of the Revised Code. 388 Unless there is good cause for delay, appeals shall be heard on an 389 expedited basis. 390
- (B) Subject to the disposition of an appeal, upon the 391 expiration of one year sixty days after an adoption decree is 392 issued, the decree cannot be questioned by any person, including 393 the petitioner, in any manner or upon any ground, including fraud, 394 misrepresentation, failure to give any required notice, or lack of 395 jurisdiction of the parties or of the subject matter, unless, in 396 the case of the adoption of a minor, the petitioner has not taken 397 custody of the minor, or, in the case of the adoption of a minor 398 by a stepparent, the adoption would not have been granted but for 399 fraud perpetrated by the petitioner or the petitioner's spouse, 400 or, in the case of the adoption of an adult, the adult had no 401 knowledge of the decree within the one-year sixty-day period. 402

Sec. 5103.17. (A) As used in this section:	403
(1) "Advertise" means a method of communication that is	404
electronic, written, visual, or oral and made by means of personal	405
representation, newspaper, magazine, circular, billboard, direct	406
mailing, sign, radio, television, telephone, or otherwise.	407
(2) "Qualified adoptive parent" means a person who is	408
eligible to adopt a child under section 3107.03 of the Revised	409
Code and for whom an assessor has conducted a home study to	410
determine whether the person is suitable to adopt a child, if	411
required by section 3107.031 of the Revised Code.	412
(B) Subject to section 5103.16 of the Revised Code and to	413
division (C), (D), or (E) of this section, no person or government	414
entity, other than a private child placing agency or private	415
noncustodial agency certified by the department of job and family	416
services under section 5103.03 of the Revised Code or a public	417
children services agency, shall advertise that the person or	418
government entity will adopt children or place them in foster	419
homes, hold out inducements to parents to part with their	420
offspring, or in any manner knowingly become a party to the	421
separation of a child from the child's parents or guardians,	422
except through a juvenile court or probate court commitment.	423
(C) The biological parent of a child may advertise the	424
availability for placement of the parent's child for adoption to a	425
qualified adoptive person.	426
(D) A qualified adoptive parent may advertise that the	427
qualified adoptive parent is available for placement of a child	428
into the qualified adoptive parent's care for the purpose of	429
adopting the child.	430
(E) A government entity may advertise about its role in the	431
placement of children for adoption or any other information that	432

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There is hereby granted a credit against the tax imposed by	463
section 5747.02 of the Revised Code for the legal adoption by a	464
taxpayer of a minor child. The amount of the credit shall be one	465
ten thousand five hundred dollars for each minor child legally	466
adopted by the taxpayer. The taxpayer shall claim the credit for	467
each child beginning with the taxable year in which the child was	468
legally adopted. If the sum of the credit to which the taxpayer	469
would otherwise be entitled under this section is greater than the	470
tax due under section 5747.02 of the Revised Code for that taxable	471
year after allowing for any other credits that precede the credit	472
under this section in the order required under section 5747.98 of	473
the Revised Code, such excess shall be allowed as a credit in each	474
of the ensuing two <u>five</u> taxable years, but the amount of any	475
excess credit allowed in any such taxable year shall be deducted	476
from the balance carried forward to the ensuing taxable year. The	477
credit shall be claimed in the order required under section	478
5747.98 of the Revised Code. For the purposes of making tax	479
payments under this chapter, taxes equal to the amount of the	480
credit shall be considered to be paid to this state on the first	481
day of the taxable year.	482

- Sec. 5747.98. (A) To provide a uniform procedure for 483 calculating the amount of tax due under section 5747.02 of the 484 Revised Code, a taxpayer shall claim any credits to which the 485 taxpayer is entitled in the following order: 486
- (1) The retirement income credit under division (B) of 487 section 5747.055 of the Revised Code; 488
- (2) The senior citizen credit under division (C) of section 489 5747.05 of the Revised Code; 490
- (3) The lump sum distribution credit under division (D) of 491 section 5747.05 of the Revised Code; 492
 - (4) The dependent care credit under section 5747.054 of the 493

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Revised Code are hereby repealed.

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Section 3. The amendment by this act of section 5747.37 of	582
the Revised Code applies to taxable years ending on or after the	583
effective date of this act.	584