# As Reported by the Senate Civil Justice Committee

# 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

**Senator Coley** 

## A BILL

То	amend sections 3107.055, 3107.062, 3107.063,	1
	3107.064, 3107.07, 3107.16, 5103.17, 5747.37, and	2
	5747.98 and to enact sections 3107.067, 3107.068,	3
	3107.069, 3107.0611, 3107.0612, 3107.0613, and	4
	3107.0614 of the Revised Code to require that	5
	certain pre-birth adoption notifications be sent	6
	to each putative father; to reduce the time within	7
	which a putative father must register with the	8
	putative father registry; to reduce the period of	9
	time to appeal an adoption decree; to permit	10
	certain entities to advertise regarding the	11
	adoption of children; to define for purposes of an	12
	adoption "living expenses" of a birth mother and	13
	to specify how they must be paid; and to increase	14
	the adoption income tax credit.	15

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

Section 1. That sections 3107.055, 3107.062, 3107.063,	16
3107.064, 3107.07, 3107.16, 5103.17, 5747.37, and 5747.98 be	17
amended and sections 3107.067, 3107.068, 3107.069, 3107.0611,	18
3107.0612, 3107.0613, and 3107.0614 of the Revised Code be enacted	19
to read as follows:	20
<b>Sec. 3107.055.</b> (A) $\underline{(1)}$ Notwithstanding section 3107.01 of the	21
Revised Code, as used in this section, "agency" does not include a	22
public children services agency.	23
(2) As used in this section, "living expenses" means any of	24
the following expenses incurred by a birth mother:	25
(a) Rental or mortgage payments;	26
(b) Utility payments;	27
(c) Payments for products or services required for the birth	28
mother's or minor's sustenance or safety including, but not	29
limited to, food, household goods, personal care items, and the	30
costs of transportation to work or school.	31
(B) An agency or attorney, whichever arranges a minor's	32
adoption, shall file with the court a preliminary estimate	33
accounting not later than the time the adoption petition for the	34
minor is filed with the court. The agency or attorney, whichever	35
arranges the adoption, also shall file a final accounting with the	36
court before a final decree of adoption is issued or an	37
interlocutory order of adoption is finalized for the minor. The	38
agency or attorney shall complete and file accountings in a manner	39
acceptable to the court.	40
An accounting shall specify all disbursements of anything of	41
value the petitioner a person on the petitioner's behalf and the	42

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 estimate accounting and a final accounting a written statement signed by the petitioner that the petitioner has reviewed the accounting and attests to its accuracy.

- (C) No petitioner, person acting on a petitioner's behalf, or 60 agency or attorney shall make or agree to make any disbursements 61 in connection with the minor's permanent surrender, placement, or 62 adoption other than for the following: 63
- (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;
  66
- (2) Hospital or other medical facility expenses incurred on

  behalf of the birth mother or minor in connection with the minor's

  birth;

  69
- (3) Expenses charged by the attorney arranging the adoption 70 for providing legal services in connection with the placement and 71 adoption, including expenses incurred by the attorney pursuant to 72 sections 3107.031, 3107.032, 3107.081, 3107.082, 3107.09, 73

3107.101, and 3107.12 of the Revised Code;	74
(4) Expenses charged by the agency arranging the adoption for	75
providing services in connection with the permanent surrender and	76
adoption, including the agency's application fee and the expenses	77
incurred by the agency pursuant to sections 3107.031, 3107.032,	78
3107.09, 3107.101, 3107.12, 5103.151, and 5103.152 of the Revised	79
Code;	80
(5) Temporary costs of routine maintenance and medical care	81
for a minor required under section 5103.16 of the Revised Code if	82
the person seeking to adopt the minor refuses to accept placement	83
of the minor;	84
(6) Guardian ad litem fees incurred on behalf of the minor in	85
any court proceedings;	86
(7) Foster care expenses incurred in connection with any	87
temporary care and maintenance of the minor;	88
(8) Court expenses incurred in connection with the minor's	89
permanent surrender, placement, and adoption;	90
(9) Living expenses not exceeding three thousand dollars for	91
the birth mother that are incurred during pregnancy through the	92
sixtieth day after the date the minor is born and paid by the	93
petitioner to the birth mother through the attorney or agency	94
arranging the minor's adoption.	95
(D) If a court determines from an accounting that an amount	96
that is going to be disbursed for an expense listed in division	97
(C) of this section is unreasonable, the court may order a	98
reduction in the amount to be disbursed. If a court determines	99
from an accounting that an unreasonable amount was disbursed for	100
an expense listed in division (C) of this section, the court may	101
order the person who received the disbursement to refund to the	102

person who made the disbursement an amount the court orders.

If a court determines from an accounting that a disbursement	104
for an expense not permitted by division (C) of this section is	105
going to be made, the court may issue an injunction prohibiting	106
the disbursement. If a court determines from an accounting that a	107
disbursement for an expense not permitted by division (C) of this	108
section was made, the court may order the person who received the	109
disbursement to return it to the person who made the disbursement.	110
If a court determines that a final accounting does not	111
completely report all the disbursements that are going to be made	112
or have been made in connection with the minor's permanent	113
surrender, placement, and adoption, the court shall order the	114
agency or attorney to file with the court an accounting that	115
completely reports all such disbursements.	116
The agency or attorney shall file the final accounting with	117
the court not later than ten days prior to the date scheduled for	118
the final hearing on the adoption. The court may not issue a final	119
decree of adoption or finalize an interlocutory order of adoption	120
of a minor until at least ten days after the agency or attorney	121
files the final accounting.	122
(E) An attorney or agency that makes payments for services or	123
items that qualify as living expenses under division (C)(9) of	124
this section shall make a reasonable and good faith effort to make	125
the payments directly to the entity providing the service or item.	126
(F) This section does not apply to an adoption by a	127
stepparent whose spouse is a biological or adoptive parent of the	128
minor.	129
Sec. 3107.062. The department of job and family services	130
shall establish a putative father registry. To register, a	131
putative father must complete a registration form prescribed under	132
section 3107.065 of the Revised Code and submit it to the	133
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department. The registration form shall include the putative

father's name; the name of the mother of the person he claims as	135
his child; and the address or telephone number at which he wishes	136
to receive, pursuant to section 3107.11 of the Revised Code,	137
notice of any petition that may be filed to adopt a minor he	138
claims as his child.	139

A putative father may register at any time. For the purpose 140 of preserving the requirement of his consent to an adoption, a 141 putative father shall register before or not later than thirty 142 fifteen days after the birth of the child. No fee shall be charged 143 for registration.

On receipt of a completed registration form, the department 145 shall indicate on the form the date of receipt and file it in the 146 putative father registry. The department shall maintain 147 registration forms in a manner that enables it to access a 148 registration form using either the name of the putative father or 149 of the mother.

Sec. 3107.063. (A) An attorney arranging a minor's adoption, 151 a mother, a public children services agency, a private 152 noncustodial agency, or a private child placing agency may request 153 at any time that the department of job and family services search 154 the putative father registry to determine whether a man is 155 registered as the minor's putative father. The request shall 156 include the mother's name. On receipt of the request, the 157 department shall search the registry. If the department determines 158 that a man is registered as the minor's putative father, it shall 159 provide the attorney, mother, or agency a certified copy of the 160 man's registration form. If the department determines that no man 161 is registered as the minor's putative father, it shall provide the 162 attorney, mother, or agency a certified written statement to that 163 effect. The department shall specify in the statement the date the 164 search request was submitted. No fee shall be charged for 165

Sub. H. B. No. 307 As Reported by the Senate Civil Justice Committee	Page 9
requested.	226
Sec. 3107.068. The mother of a child is not obligated to	227
place the child for adoption even if notice is served to a	228
putative father of the child under section 3107.067 of the Revised	229
Code.	230
Sec. 3107.069. (A) If notice to a putative father is served	231
by a party listed in division (A)(1) or (2) of section 3107.067 of	232
the Revised Code, an agency or an attorney representing the person	233
seeking to adopt a child, when filing a petition for adoption of	234
the child, shall submit to the court an affidavit setting forth	235
the circumstances surrounding the service of actual notice	236
including the time, if known, date, and manner in which the actual	237
notice was provided.	238
(B) If notice to a putative father is served by a party	239
listed in division (A)(3) of section 3107.067 of the Revised Code,	240
an agency or an attorney representing the person seeking to adopt	241
a child, when filing a petition for adoption of the child, shall	242
submit to the court an affidavit prepared by the attorney	243
representing the mother of the child setting forth the	244
circumstances surrounding the service of actual notice including	245
the time, if known, date, and manner in which the actual notice	246
was provided.	247
Sec. 3107.0611. Notice served under section 3107.067 of the	248
Revised Code shall be provided to the putative father of the child	249
in substantially the following form:	250
" (putative father's name), who has	251
been named as the father of the unborn child of	252
(birth mother's name), or who claims to	253
be the father of the unborn child, is notified that	254
(birth mother's name) has expressed an	255

Page 10

Sub. H. B. No. 307

action.	285
Sec. 3107.0614. (A) A notice served in accordance with	286
section 3107.067 of the Revised Code on a putative father who is a	287
resident of Ohio is valid regardless of whether the notice is	288
served within or outside Ohio.	289
(B) A notice served in accordance with section 3107.067 of	290
the Revised Code outside Ohio on a putative father who is not a	291
resident of Ohio is valid if the child was conceived:	292
(1) In Ohio; or	293
(2) Outside Ohio, if the laws of the state in which the	294
father is served notice or resides or in which the child was	295
conceived allow a putative father to file an action to determine	296
parentage of the child.	297
Sec. 3107.07. Consent to adoption is not required of any of	298
the following:	299
the following.	299
(A) A parent of a minor, when it is alleged in the adoption	300
petition and the court, after proper service of notice and	301
hearing, finds by clear and convincing evidence that the parent	302
has failed without justifiable cause to provide more than de	303
minimis contact with the minor or to provide for the maintenance	304
and support of the minor as required by law or judicial decree for	305
a period of at least one year immediately preceding either the	306
filing of the adoption petition or the placement of the minor in	307
the home of the petitioner.	308
(B) The putative father of a minor if either of the following	309
applies:	310
(1) The putative father fails to register as the minor's	311
putative father with the putative father registry established	312
under section 3107.062 of the Revised Code not later than thirty	313

374

(H) Any legal guardian or lawful custodian of the person to 344 be adopted, other than a parent, who has failed to respond in 345 writing to a request for consent, for a period of thirty days, or 346 who, after examination of the written reasons for withholding 347 consent, is found by the court to be withholding consent 348 unreasonably; 349 (I) The spouse of the person to be adopted, if the failure of 350 the spouse to consent to the adoption is found by the court to be 351 by reason of prolonged unexplained absence, unavailability, 352 incapacity, or circumstances that make it impossible or 353 unreasonably difficult to obtain the consent or refusal of the 354 spouse; 355 (J) Any parent, legal guardian, or other lawful custodian in 356 a foreign country, if the person to be adopted has been released 357 for adoption pursuant to the laws of the country in which the 358 person resides and the release of such person is in a form that 359 satisfies the requirements of the immigration and naturalization 360 service of the United States department of justice for purposes of 361 immigration to the United States pursuant to section 101(b)(1)(F) 362 of the "Immigration and Nationality Act," 75 Stat. 650 (1961), 8 363 U.S.C. 1101(b)(1)(F), as amended or reenacted. 364 (K) Except as provided in divisions (G) and (H) of this 365 section, a juvenile court, agency, or person given notice of the 366 petition pursuant to division (A)(1) of section 3107.11 of the 367 Revised Code that fails to file an objection to the petition 368 within fourteen days after proof is filed pursuant to division (B) 369 of that section that the notice was given; 370 (L) Any guardian, custodian, or other party who has temporary 371 custody of the child. 372

Sec. 3107.16. (A) Appeals from the probate court are subject

to the Rules of Appellate Procedure and, to the extent not in

conflict with those rules, Chapter 2505. of the Revised Code.	375
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Unless there is good cause for delay, appeals shall be heard on an	376
expedited basis.	377
(B) Subject to the disposition of an appeal, upon the	378
expiration of <del>one year</del> <u>six months</u> after an adoption decree is	379
issued, the decree cannot be questioned by any person, including	380
the petitioner, in any manner or upon any ground, including fraud,	381
misrepresentation, failure to give any required notice, or lack of	382
jurisdiction of the parties or of the subject matter, unless, in	383
the case of the adoption of a minor, the petitioner has not taken	384
custody of the minor, or, in the case of the adoption of a minor	385
by a stepparent, the adoption would not have been granted but for	386
fraud perpetrated by the petitioner or the petitioner's spouse,	387
or, in the case of the adoption of an adult, the adult had no	388
knowledge of the decree within the one year six-month period.	389
Sec. 5103.17. (A) As used in this section:	390
(1) "Advertise" means a method of communication that is	391
electronic, written, visual, or oral and made by means of personal	392
representation, newspaper, magazine, circular, billboard, direct	393
mailing, sign, radio, television, telephone, or otherwise.	394
(2) "Qualified adoptive parent" means a person who is	395
eligible to adopt a child under section 3107.03 of the Revised	396
Code and for whom an assessor has conducted a home study to	397
determine whether the person is suitable to adopt a child, if	398
required by section 3107.031 of the Revised Code.	399
(D) Subject to section [102 16 of the Desired Gode and to	400
(B) Subject to section 5103.16 of the Revised Code and to	400
division (C), (D), or (E) of this section, no person or government	401
entity, other than a private child placing agency or private	402
noncustodial agency certified by the department of job and family	403
services under section 5103.03 of the Revised Code or a public	404
children services agency, shall advertise that the person or	405

enforce this section through injunctive relief or criminal charge.

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Sec. 5747.37. (A) As used in this section:	437
$\frac{(A)(1)}{(1)}$ "Minor child" means a person under eighteen years of	438
age.	439
$\frac{(B)}{(2)}$ "Legally adopt" means to adopt a minor child pursuant	440
to Chapter 3107. of the Revised Code, or pursuant to the laws of	441
any other state or nation if such an adoption is recognizable	442
under section 3107.18 of the Revised Code. For the purposes of	443
this section, a minor child is legally adopted when the final	444
decree or order of adoption is issued by the proper court under	445
the laws of the state or nation under which the child is adopted,	446
or, in the case of an interlocutory order of adoption, when the	447
order becomes final under the laws of the state or nation.	448
"Legally adopt" does not include the adoption of a minor child by	449
the child's stepparent.	450
(B) There is hereby granted a credit against the tax imposed	451
by section 5747.02 of the Revised Code for the legal adoption by a	452
taxpayer of a minor child. The amount of the credit shall be one	453
thousand five hundred dollars for each minor child legally adopted	454
by the taxpayer. The shall equal the greater of the following:	455
(1) One thousand five hundred dollars;	456
(2) The amount of expenses incurred by the taxpayer and the	457
taxpayer's spouse to legally adopt the child, not to exceed ten	458
thousand dollars. For the purposes of this division, expenses	459
incurred to legally adopt a child include expenses described in	460
division (C) of section 3107.055 of the Revised Code.	461
The taxpayer shall claim the credit for each child beginning	462
with the taxable year in which the child was legally adopted. If	463
the sum of the credit to which the taxpayer would otherwise be	464
entitled under this section is greater than the tax due under	465
section 5747.02 of the Revised Code for that taxable year after	466

allowing for any other credits that precede the credit under this	467
section in the order required under section 5747.98 of the Revised	468
Code, such excess shall be allowed as a credit in each of the	469
ensuing <del>two</del> <u>five</u> taxable years, but the amount of any excess	470
credit allowed in any such taxable year shall be deducted from the	471
balance carried forward to the ensuing taxable year. The credit	472
shall be claimed in the order required under section 5747.98 of	473
the Revised Code. For the purposes of making tax payments under	474
this chapter, taxes equal to the amount of the credit shall be	475
considered to be paid to this state on the first day of the	476
taxable year.	477
The taxpayer shall provide to the tax commissioner any	478
receipts or other documentation of the expenses incurred to	479
legally adopt the child upon the request of the tax commissioner	480
for the purpose of division (B)(2) of this section.	481
Sec. 5747.98. (A) To provide a uniform procedure for	482
calculating the amount of tax due under section 5747.02 of the	483
Revised Code, a taxpayer shall claim any credits to which the	484
taxpayer is entitled in the following order:	485
(1) The retirement income credit under division (B) of	486
section 5747.055 of the Revised Code;	487
(2) The senior citizen credit under division (C) of section	488
5747.05 of the Revised Code;	489
	400
(3) The lump sum distribution credit under division (D) of	490
section 5747.05 of the Revised Code;	491
(4) The dependent care credit under section 5747.054 of the	492
Revised Code;	493
(5) The lump sum retirement income credit under division (C)	494
of section 5747.055 of the Revised Code;	495
(6) The lump sum retirement income credit under division (D)	496

$\frac{(21)(20)}{(20)}$ The second credit for purchases of new manufacturing	526
machinery and equipment and the credit for using Ohio coal under	527
section 5747.31 of the Revised Code;	528
$\frac{(22)(21)}{(21)}$ The job training credit under section 5747.39 of the	529
Revised Code;	530
$\frac{(23)(22)}{(23)}$ The enterprise zone credit under section 5709.66 of the Revised Code;	531 532
$\frac{(24)(23)}{(23)}$ The credit for the eligible costs associated with a voluntary action under section 5747.32 of the Revised Code;	533 534
(24) The credit for adoption of a minor child under section	535
5747.37 of the Revised Code;	536
(25) The credit for employers that establish on-site child	537
day-care centers under section 5747.35 of the Revised Code;	538
(26) The ethanol plant investment credit under section	539
5747.75 of the Revised Code;	540
(27) The credit for purchases of qualifying grape production property under section 5747.28 of the Revised Code;	541 542
(28) The small business investment credit under section 5747.81 of the Revised Code;	543 544
(29) The enterprise zone credits under section 5709.65 of the Revised Code;	545 546
(30) The research and development credit under section 5747.331 of the Revised Code;	547 548
(31) The credit for rehabilitating a historic building under	549
section 5747.76 of the Revised Code;	550
(32) The refundable credit for rehabilitating a historic building under section 5747.76 of the Revised Code;	551 552
(33) The refundable jobs creation credit or job retention credit under division (A) of section 5747.058 of the Revised Code;	553 554

Section 2. That existing sections 3107.055, 3107.062, 578
3107.063, 3107.064, 3107.07, 3107.16, 5103.17, 5747.37, and 579
5747.98 of the Revised Code are hereby repealed. 580
Section 3. The amendment by this act of section 5747.37 of 581
the Revised Code applies to taxable years ending on or after the 582
effective date of this act. 583