As Passed by the House

130th General Assembly Regular Session 2013-2014

Sub. S. B. No. 250

Senators Jones, LaRose

Cosponsors: Senators Beagle, Burke, Lehner, Coley, Kearney, Bacon,
Balderson, Eklund, Faber, Gardner, Hite, Hughes, Jordan, Obhof, Peterson,
Sawyer, Schaffer, Seitz, Uecker, Widener
Representatives Wachtmann, Brown, Adams, R., Anielski, Baker, Blessing,
Buchy, Burkley, Derickson, Dovilla, Grossman, Hackett, Hagan, C., Hayes,
Henne, Pelanda, Ruhl, Schuring, Sears, Smith, Stautberg, Stebelton
Speaker Batchelder

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

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
Sec. 3107.055. (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	43
the minor's permanent surrender under division (B) of section	44

5103.15 of the Revised Code, placement under section 5103.16 of

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the Revised Code, and adoption under this chapter. The agency or	46
attorney shall include in an accounting an itemization of each	47
expense listed in division (C) of this section. The itemization of	48
the expenses specified in divisions (C)(3) and (4) of this section	49
shall show the amount the agency or attorney charged or is going	50
to charge for the services and the actual cost to the agency or	51
attorney of providing the services. An accounting shall indicate	52
whether any expenses listed in division (C) of this section do not	53
apply to the adoption proceeding for which the accounting is	54
filed.	55

The agency or attorney shall include with a preliminary 56 estimate accounting and a final accounting a written statement 57 signed by the petitioner that the petitioner has reviewed the 58 accounting and attests to its accuracy. 59

- (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 providing services in connection with the permanent surrender and

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.	103

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

notice of any petition that may be filed to adopt a minor he

138

Sub. S. B. No. 250 As Passed by the House	Page 6
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.	144
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.	150
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
searching the registry.	166
Division (B) of section 3107.17 of the Revised Code does not	167
apply to this section.	168
(B) If the department of job and family services provides a	169

Sub. S. B. No. 250

(3) Prior to the date a petition to adopt the minor is filed,	200
a man has been determined to have a parent and child relationship	201
with the minor by a court proceeding pursuant to sections 3111.01	202
to 3111.18 of the Revised Code, a court proceeding in another	203
state, an administrative agency proceeding pursuant to sections	204
3111.38 to 3111.54 of the Revised Code, or an administrative	205
agency proceeding in another state;	206
(4) The minor's father acknowledged paternity of the minor	207
and that acknowledgment has become final pursuant to section	208
2151.232, 3111.25, or 3111.821 of the Revised Code;	209
(5) A public children services agency has permanent custody	210
of the minor pursuant to Chapter 2151. or division (B) of section	211
5103.15 of the Revised Code after both parents lost or surrendered	212
parental rights, privileges, and responsibilities over the minor.	213
God 2107 067 (A) Defense the birth of a ghild and with the	21.4
Sec. 3107.067. (A) Before the birth of a child and with the	214 215
written consent of the mother of the child, any of the following may serve or caused to be served actual notice to a putative	216
father of the child that the mother of the child is considering	217
placing the child for adoption:	218
practing the chira tor adoption.	210
(1) An agency;	219
(2) An attorney representing the person seeking to adopt the	220
child;	221
(3) An attorney representing the mother of the child.	222
(B) As used in this section, "actual notice" means written	223
notice that is actually received by the putative father and	224
includes personal service or certified mail, return receipt	225
requested.	226
Cog 2107 069 The methor of a shild is not obligated to	227
Sec. 3107.068. The mother of a child is not obligated to	227
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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
intention to place the child for adoption.	256
On receipt of this notice,	257
(putative father's name) may file an action under section 3111.04	258

Sec. 3107.0614. (A) A notice served in accordance with

Page 10

286

Sub. S. B. No. 250

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
(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
<u>fifteen</u> days after the minor's birth;	314
(2) The court finds, after proper service of notice and	315

- (c) The putative father has willfully abandoned the mother of 320 the minor during her pregnancy and up to the time of her surrender 321 of the minor, or the minor's placement in the home of the 322 petitioner, whichever occurs first.
- (C) Except as provided in section 3107.071 of the Revised 324 Code, a parent who has entered into a voluntary permanent custody 325 surrender agreement under division (B) of section 5103.15 of the 326 Revised Code; 327
- (D) A parent whose parental rights have been terminated by 328 order of a juvenile court under Chapter 2151. of the Revised Code; 329
- (E) A parent who is married to the petitioner and supports 330 the adoption; 331
- (F) The father, or putative father, of a minor if the minor 332 is conceived as the result of the commission of rape by the father 333 or putative father and the father or putative father is convicted 334 of or pleads guilty to the commission of that offense. As used in 335 this division, "rape" means a violation of section 2907.02 of the 336 Revised Code or a similar law of another state. 337
- (G) A legal guardian or guardian ad litem of a parent 338 judicially declared incompetent in a separate court proceeding who 339 has failed to respond in writing to a request for consent, for a 340 period of thirty days, or who, after examination of the written 341 reasons for withholding consent, is found by the court to be 342 withholding consent unreasonably; 343
- (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	373
to the Rules of Appellate Procedure and, to the extent not in	374
conflict with those rules, Chapter 2505. of the Revised Code.	375

Unless there is good cause for delay, appeals shall be heard on an

expedited basis.	377
(B) Subject to the disposition of an appeal, upon the	378
expiration of one year six months 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
(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
government entity will adopt children or place them in foster	406
homes, hold out inducements to parents to part with their	407

offspring, or in any manner knowingly become a party to the	408
separation of a child from the child's parents or guardians,	409
except through a juvenile court or probate court commitment.	410
(C) The biological parent of a child may advertise the	411
availability for placement of the parent's child for adoption to a	412
qualified adoptive parent.	413
(D) A qualified adoptive parent may advertise that the	414
qualified adoptive parent is available for placement of a child	415
into the qualified adoptive parent's care for the purpose of	416
adopting the child.	417
(E) A government entity may advertise about its role in the	418
placement of children for adoption or any other information that	419
would be relevant to qualified adoptive parents.	420
(F) Except as provided in section 3107.055 of the Revised	421
Code, the following apply:	422
(1) No person shall offer money or anything of value in	423
exchange for placement of a child for adoption.	424
(2) No biological parent may request money or anything of	425
value in exchange for placement for adoption of the parent's child	426
with a qualified adoptive parent.	427
(G) If the department of job and family services has	428
reasonable cause to believe a violation of this section has been	429
committed, the department shall notify the attorney general or the	430
county prosecutor, city attorney, village solicitor, or other	431
chief legal officer of the political subdivision in which the	432
violation has allegedly occurred. On receipt of the notification,	433
the attorney general, county prosecutor, city attorney, village	434
solicitor, or other chief legal officer shall take action to	435
enforce this section through injunctive relief or criminal charge.	436

Sec. 5747.37. (A) As used in this section:

$\frac{(A)}{(1)}$ "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

Code, such excess shall be allowed as a credit in each of the	469
ensuing two <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
(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
of section 5747.055 of the Revised Code;	497
(7) The lump sum retirement income credit under division (E)	498

Sub. S. B. No. 250

(35) The refundable credits for taxes paid by a qualifying	557
pass-through entity granted under division (I) of section 5747.08	558
of the Revised Code;	559
(36) The refundable credit under section 5747.80 of the	560
Revised Code for losses on loans made to the Ohio venture capital	561
program under sections 150.01 to 150.10 of the Revised Code;	562
(37) The refundable motion picture production credit under	563
section 5747.66 of the Revised Code;	564
(38) The refundable credit for financial institution taxes	565
paid by a pass-through entity granted under section 5747.65 of the	566
Revised Code.	567
(B) For any credit, except the refundable credits enumerated	568
in this section and the credit granted under division (H) of	569
section 5747.08 of the Revised Code, the amount of the credit for	570
a taxable year shall not exceed the tax due after allowing for any	571
other credit that precedes it in the order required under this	572
section. Any excess amount of a particular credit may be carried	573
forward if authorized under the section creating that credit.	574
Nothing in this chapter shall be construed to allow a taxpayer to	575
claim, directly or indirectly, a credit more than once for a	576
taxable year.	577
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