

CHAPTER 815

H.B. No. 1994

AN ACT

relating to access to confidential information contained in birth records and indexes maintained by the Texas Department of Health and local registrars of births.

*Be it enacted by the Legislature of the State of Texas:*

SECTION 1. Section 18, Chapter 41, Acts of the 40th Legislature, 1st Called Session, 1927 (Rule 51a, Article 4477, Vernon's Texas Civil Statutes), is amended by adding Subsection A-3 to read as follows:

*A-3. The Texas Department of Health shall adopt rules, regulations, and procedures to ensure that those birth records and indexes of such records subject to the control of the Department or local registrars and accessible to the public do not contain information or cross-references through which the confidentiality of adoption placements can be broken, directly or indirectly; provided, however, that the rules, regulations, and procedures adopted by the Department shall not interfere with the operation of mutual consent voluntary adoption registries established under Chapter 49, Human Resources Code, or with an order of a court of competent jurisdiction pursuant to Section 14 of this Act (Rule 47a, Article 4477, Vernon's Texas Civil Statutes).*

SECTION 2. This Act takes effect September 1, 1987.

SECTION 3. The importance of this legislation and the crowded condition of the calendars in both houses create an emergency and an imperative public necessity that the constitutional rule requiring bills to be read on three several days in each house be suspended, and this rule is hereby suspended.

Passed by the House on May 22, 1987, by a non-record vote. Passed by the Senate on May 29, 1987, by the following vote: Yeas 30, Nays 0.

Approved June 19, 1987.

Effective Sept. 1, 1987.