

BILL SUMMARY

This bill codifies a streamlined process for co-parent adoptions by LGBTQ couples who petition to adopt their own children so as to ensure universal recognition and respect for their parentage. This bill will ensure greater clarity, efficiency, and consistency in the adoption process.

WHAT IS THE CURRENT PROBLEM?

- LGBTQ couples must complete adoptions of children born to them through assisted reproduction in order to secure a court decree that ensures their parentage will be respected throughout the United States and internationally.
- For these families, the adoption process is slow, expensive and difficult to navigate. In RI, LGBTQ families are required to complete home studies and to provide notice of the adoption to anonymous donors.
- The current system creates barriers and delays for families in securing their children, leaving children born to LGBTQ families vulnerable.

HOW DOES THIS BILL HELP?

This bill will codify a streamlined process of adoption, ensuring that children born to LGBTQ families can be adopted without having to go through a home study, a six-month waiting period and other requirements that are not appropriate in these circumstances.

Supporters include: American Civil Liberties Union, LGBTQ Action RI, GLBTQ Legal Advocates & Defenders, RESOLVE New England, TGI Network of RI, NASW-RI, New England Surrogacy, Fertility Within Reach, Thundermist Health Center, Attorney Lise Iwon, Attorney Michael Grant. Courtney G.

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