

- SUBJECT:** Address of parent in voluntary relinquishment of parental rights
- COMMITTEE:** Juvenile Justice and Family Issues — favorable, without amendment
- VOTE:** 6 ayes — Dutton, Bolton, Farrar, Gonzalez Toureilles, Hernandez, Vaught
0 nays
3 absent — Eiland, Farias, Strama
- WITNESSES:** For — Heidi Bruegel Cox, The Gladney Center
Against — None
On — Geraldine Harris, Department of State Health Services Vital Statistics Unit
- BACKGROUND:** Family Code, sec. 161.103 provides a list of information to be included in an affidavit for voluntary relinquishment of parental rights. Required information includes the name, address, and age of the parent whose parental rights are being relinquished and, if applicable, the name and address of the other parent whose parental rights have been terminated by court order or death.
- DIGEST:** HB 568 would amend Family Code, sec. 161.103 to require the affidavit to specify the county of residence, rather than the address, of each parent to whom the affidavit applied. The bill also would update a statutory reference to the Department of Family and Protective Services.
The bill would take effect September 1, 2007, and apply only to an affidavit executed on or after that date.
- SUPPORTERS SAY:** HB 568 would provide parents who had voluntarily relinquished their parental rights a higher degree of confidentiality by listing each parent's county of residence rather than their addresses. Cases in which a parent voluntarily relinquishes rights often involve abuse, and the victims need the protection of confidentiality. If good cause was shown, the address of the biological parent could be accessed by attorneys and judges by unsealing the record.

OPPONENTS
SAY:

No apparent opposition.