WEST VIRGINIA LEGISLATURE
REGULAR SESSION, 1957

ENROLLED

HOUSE BILL No. 295

(By Mr. Bratcher)

PASSED March 8 1957

In Effect 90 days from Passage
AN ACT to amend and reenact section four, article four, chapter forty-eight of the code of West Virginia, one thousand nine hundred thirty-one, as amended, relating to decree and birth certificate procedures and requirements in adoption cases.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of West Virginia:

That section four, article four, chapter forty-eight of the code of West Virginia, one thousand nine hundred thirty-one, as amended, be amended and reenacted to read as follows:

Section 4. Recording Decrees and Birth Certificates;

Duties of Clerks and Registrar; Fees.—The decree shall be recorded in a book kept for that purpose, and the clerk shall receive the same fees as in other cases in the circuit court or juvenile court, as the case may be. All records of proceedings in adoption cases and all papers and records
relating to such proceedings shall be kept in a sealed file and shall not be open to inspection or copy by anyone other than the parties of record or their legal representatives, except upon court order for good cause shown. No person in charge of adoption records shall disclose the names of the adopting parent or parents or adopted child except by court order. Immediately upon the entry of such a decree of adoption, the court shall direct the clerk thereof forthwith to make and deliver to the state registrar of vital statistics a certificate under the seal of said court, showing:

1. The date and place of birth of the adoptee, if known;
2. The names of the natural parents of the adoptee, if known;
3. The name by which said child has previously been known;
4. The names and addresses of the adopting parents;
5. The name by which the child is to be thereafter known; and
6. Such other information from the record of said adoption proceedings as may be required by the law of
this state relating to vital statistics and as may enable the
state registrar of vital statistics to carry out the duty
imposed upon him by this section.

Upon receipt of said certificate, the said registrar of
vital statistics shall forthwith issue and deliver by mail
to the adopting parents at their last known address and
to the clerk of the county court of the county wherein
such decree of adoption was entered a birth certificate in
the form required by law, except that the name of the
adoptee shown in said certificate shall be the name given
him by the decree of adoption. Such county court clerk
shall record such birth in the manner provided by chapter
sixteen, article five, section nineteen of this code.
The Joint Committee on Enrolled Bills hereby certifies that the foregoing bill is correctly enrolled.

Chairman Senate Committee

Chairman House Committee

Originated in the House of Delegates

Takes effect 90 days from passage.

Clerk of the Senate

Clerk of the House of Delegates

President of the Senate

Speaker, House of Delegates

The within approved this the 15th day of March, 1957.

Governor

Filed in the Office of the Secretary of State of West Virginia, D. Pitt O'Brien, Secretary of State.