

103^D CONGRESS
2^D SESSION

H. R. 4920

To require the Secretary of Health and Human Services to develop recommendations for proposed model adoption legislation and procedures.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

AUGUST 8, 1994

Mrs. LOWEY (for herself and Mr. WYDEN) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Education and Labor

A BILL

To require the Secretary of Health and Human Services to develop recommendations for proposed model adoption legislation and procedures.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. MODEL ADOPTION LEGISLATION AND PROCE-**
4 **DURES.**

5 Not later than 18 months after the date of enactment
6 of this Act, the Secretary of Health and Human Services
7 (referred to in this Act as the “Secretary”) shall issue,
8 based on the recommendations of the panel described in
9 section 2, proposed model adoption legislation and proce-
10 dures and publish such proposal in the Federal Register

1 for comment. After soliciting and giving due consideration
2 to the comments of interested individuals, groups, and or-
3 ganizations, and consulting further with such panel, the
4 Secretary shall issue and publish model adoption legisla-
5 tion and procedures which shall not conflict with the provi-
6 sions of any interstate compact in operation pursuant to
7 which States are making, supervising, or regulating place-
8 ments of children. The model adoption legislation and pro-
9 cedures shall provide that the principal consideration in
10 an adoption proceeding is providing for the best interest
11 of the child, and shall contain provisions regarding the
12 best interests of children with special needs.

13 **SEC. 2. ADVISORY PANEL.**

14 (a) Not later than 90 days after the date of the enact-
15 ment of this Act, the Secretary shall appoint a panel (re-
16 ferred to in this Act as the “panel”) to be composed of
17 not less than 11 nor more than 17 members generally rep-
18 resentative of a broad range of public, voluntary, and legal
19 organizations, agencies, and persons interested and with
20 expertise and experience in facilitating the achievement of
21 the purposes of this title (including, but not limited to,
22 child welfare organizations, including those representative
23 of minorities; birth parents; and adoptive parent organiza-
24 tions). The panel shall—

1 (1) review current conditions, practices, and
2 laws relating to adoption, with special reference to
3 their effect on facilitating or impeding the location
4 of suitable adoptive homes for children who would
5 benefit by adoption and the completion of suitable
6 adoptions for such children; and

7 (2) not later than 12 months after the date on
8 which the members of the panel have been ap-
9 pointed, propose to the Secretary model (including
10 adoption assistance agreement) legislation and pro-
11 cedures relating to adoption designed to facilitate
12 adoption by families of all economic levels.

13 (b) The panel shall be terminated 30 days after the
14 Secretary publishes the final model legislation and proce-
15 dures pursuant to section 1.

16 (c) Members of the panel, other than those regularly
17 employed by the Federal Government, while serving on
18 business of the panel shall be entitled to receive compensa-
19 tion at a rate not in excess of the daily equivalent of the
20 rate payable, under section 5322 of title 5, United States
21 Code, for positions in the General Schedule above GS-15,
22 including traveltime; and while so serving away from their
23 homes or regular places of business, they may be allowed
24 travel expenses (including per diem in lieu of subsistence)

1 as authorized by section 5703 of such title for persons in
2 the Government service employed intermittently.

3 **SEC. 3. ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS.**

4 The Secretary shall take such steps as he or she
5 deems necessary to encourage and facilitate the enactment
6 in each State of comprehensive adoption assistance legisla-
7 tion and the establishment in each State of the model leg-
8 islation and procedures published pursuant to section 1.
9 The Secretary shall coordinate efforts to improve State
10 legislation with national, State, and local child and family
11 services organizations, including organizations representa-
12 tive of minorities and adoptive families.

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