

## Adoption Opportunities Reauthorization Side-by-Side

	<a href="#">House Bill (HR 485)</a>	<a href="#">Senate Bill (S 1927)</a>
<b>Definitions</b>	No new stand-alone section on definitions.	<p><b>Section 502:</b> Creates a new section in the <a href="#">existing law</a> entitled “Definitions” that includes the following:</p> <p><b>Child Facing a Barrier to Adoption:</b> Defines a “child facing a barrier to adoption” as including an older child, a child who is a racial or ethnic minority, a child with a disability, a child or youth who belongs to a population that is the focus of NIH research efforts authorized under <a href="#">42 U.S.C. 283p</a>, and a child with special needs as defined in <a href="#">42 U.S.C. 673(c)</a>.</p> <p>This term is used throughout the amended language of the bill (as described below).</p>
<b>Purpose</b>	<p><b>Section 301:</b> Makes the following changes to the <a href="#">existing law’s</a> authorized <a href="#">findings and purpose</a>:</p> <p>Deletes the old findings.</p> <p>Adds “sexual and gender minority youth” to the list of children for whom the act is intended to eliminate barriers to adoption</p>	<p><b>Section 501:</b> Makes the following changes to the program’s authorized <a href="#">findings and purpose</a>:</p> <p>Deletes the old findings.</p> <p>Amends this section to indicate that the purpose of the program is to eliminate barriers to adoption and permanency for “children facing barriers to adoption” (as defined above).</p> <p>Adds two new purposes:</p> <p>(1) supporting the development and implementation of evidence-based and evidence-informed post-legal adoption services; and</p> <p>(2) supporting the recruitment of racially and ethnically diverse prospective foster and adoptive parents</p>
<b>Unregulated custody transfers</b>	<b>Section 302:</b> The bill adds a new section (202) to the Adoption Opportunities program on unregulated custody transfers that includes the following:	<b>Section 505:</b> The bill adds a new section (205) to the Adoption Opportunities program for unregulated custody transfers that includes the following:

	<p><u>Definition:</u> The bill defines an unregulated custody transfer.</p> <p><u>Report to Congress:</u> The bill directs HHS within one year of the date of enactment to provide a report to Congress on unregulated custody transfers of children, including adopted children. The report will cover the prevalence of such transfers, causes, the effects on children, and recommendations.</p> <p><u>Guidance to States:</u> Within 180 days after the release of the report, HHS shall issue guidance and technical assistance to states related to preventing, identifying, and responding to unregulated custody transfers, including of adopted children.</p>	<p><u>Definition:</u> The bill defines an unregulated custody transfer.</p> <p><u>Report to Congress:</u> Same as the House bill.</p> <p><u>Technical Assistance:</u> The bill directs HHS to update its resources on unregulated custody transfers and to update its website to provide: (1) state, local, and tribal agencies with relevant education and training materials; and (2) prospective adoptive families with information on relevant pre-adoption training and post-legal adoption services.</p> <p><u>Public Awareness Campaign:</u> The bill directs HHS, in coordination with other agencies, to develop a public awareness campaign. to preventing adoption disruption and dissolution, including preventing unregulated custody transfers of adopted children</p>
<p><b>Information and Services</b></p>	<p><b>Section 303:</b> Makes the following changes to the program’s authorized <a href="#">information and services</a>:</p> <p><u>National Resource Center for Special Needs Adoption:</u> Directs HHS to create this center (which already exists in section <a href="#">(b)(9)</a> of the current law) no later than two years after the date of enactment.</p> <p><u>Pre-adoption Legal Services for Families Adopting Special Needs Children:</u> Provides pre-adoption legal services to these families, who currently receive assistance for post-adoption legal services (in section <a href="#">(c)(1)</a>).</p> <p><u>Adoptions Across Jurisdictional Boundaries:</u> Makes tribes eligible for grants and contracts to eliminate barriers to placing children for adoption across jurisdictional boundaries (in section <a href="#">(e)(1)</a>).</p>	<p><b>Section 503:</b> Makes the following changes to the program’s authorized <a href="#">information and services</a>:</p> <p><u>General Authority:</u> The bill reworks the general authority given to HHS to implement the program to clarify that it has the authority to provide services to facilitate the adoption of “children facing barriers to adoption” (as defined above) and to provide both pre- and post-legal adoption services (in section <a href="#">(a)</a>).</p> <p><u>Adoption Competency Training:</u> Adds adoption competency training that supports the mental health needs of adoptive families to the list of authorized education and training programs (in section <a href="#">(b)(1)</a>).</p> <p><u>Recruitment and Public Awareness Campaigns:</u> Expands the existing authority on this to include “children facing barriers to adoption” (as defined above) in section <a href="#">(b)(2)</a>.</p> <p><u>Recruitment of Racially and Ethnically Diverse Foster and Adoptive Parents:</u> The bill supports such recruitment by updating section <a href="#">203(b)(10)</a> to include: (a) family finding and notification strategies; and (b) the provision of culturally, racially, and</p>

		<p>linguistically relevant training to public and private agency personnel.</p> <p><u>Expanded Services:</u> Broadens section (c), which currently covers post-adoption service-related grants and contracts for families adopting special needs children, to cover all families adopting “children facing barriers to adoption” (as defined above).</p> <p><u>Kinship Support Groups:</u> The bill adds kinship support groups to the groups eligible for post-adoption service grants under section (c)(2)(G).</p> <p><u>Post-Adoption Grants:</u> Broadens the grant program to states for improving placement to include grants for improving post-adoption services (section (d)(1)). The existing placement grants and technical assistance grants are also expanded to cover “children facing barriers to adoption” (as defined above) (section (d)(2)).</p> <p><u>Best Practices and Evidence-based and Evidence-informed Adoption Services:</u> The bill encourages the use of these practices and services by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(a) adding the development and implementation of evidence-based and evidence-informed post-adoption services to the list of items highlighted as a primary purpose of the overall program (see Section 501 above).</li> <li>(b) encouraging the use of best practices to recruit adoptive and foster families (in section (b)(7)) and for pre- and post-adoption services (b)(9);</li> <li>(c) providing targeted assistance to help state and local governments “replicate evidence-based and evidence-informed adoption-related projects from other areas in the United States”; (b)(11) and</li> <li>(d) directing HHS to conduct a study of such services (see next section below).</li> </ul>
<p><b>Studies and reports</b></p>	<p><b>Section 304:</b> Within three years of the date of enactment, HHS shall issue a study on adoption outcomes and the factors (including parental substance use disorder) affecting</p>	<p><b>Section 504:</b> Directs HHS to publish two reports:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(a) Within two years of the date of enactment, a report on the outcomes of individuals adopted from foster care,</li> </ul>

	<p>those outcomes and report the results to Congress.</p>	<p>including a summary of available post-adoption services and the extent to which these services are evidence-based or evidence-informed; and</p> <p>(b) Within 18 months of the date of enactment, a report on adoption disruption and dissolution, including adoptions of foster youth and international adoptions. The latter report will also explore associated factors, such as whether affected individuals received pre- or post-legal adoption services.</p>
<p><b>Authorization of appropriations</b></p>	<p><b>Section 305:</b> Extends the <u>authorization</u> of the program through FY 2027, including “such sums as necessary” for the annual appropriation.</p>	<p><b>Section 506:</b> Same as House bill.</p>

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