

that after a limited period of time the biological father cannot come into court to contest and upset an adoption in order to take custody of a child away from the adoptive parents. The bill establishes a notice procedure which is already being used by most careful and conscientious attorneys. It includes provisions for notice that is already being required by many judges. The bill sets down a strict time limit after which a biological father who has not previously asserted his parental rights can no longer contest an adoption. This bill brings to the adoption proceedings a permanency which will be reassuring to every couple who has adopted a child where it was not possible to obtain a relinquishment and a consent to adoption or a denial of paternity from the biological father. This bill does not reward biological fathers with any additional rights. It keeps Nebraska's five-day registry law in force, but it extends the period of time allowed to file a claim of paternity to five days after the biological father is given notice required by Sections 5 and 7 of the act. The first section of the bill requires the adoption agency or attorney to attempt to establish the identity of the biological father and obtain a relinquishment and consent to adoption or a denial of paternity from him. In order to do this the bill requires that the biological mother sign an affidavit identifying the father or stating that she does not know the identity of the biological father. Under Section 4 of the bill if the biological father's affidavit identifies only one possible biological father and a relinquishment and consent to adoption or a denial of paternity is obtained from him, the adoption can be finalized and the biological father cannot challenge the adoption after three months. If this is done, nothing further is required by the remaining sections of the bill. In the vast majority of adoption cases only the first two pages of the bill will apply and a decree of adoption may be entered without regard to Sections 5 through 18 of the bill. However, if the biological mother does not know the identity of the biological father, or more than one biological father are listed and no consent or relinquishment is obtained, then the remainder of the bill sets forth a notice procedure which meets the constitutional due process requirements. In summary, all this bill does is require that a biological father be given notice and the right to appear in court so that if he fails to appear there is a specific time limit during which he can contest the adoption. This bill improves and strengthens Nebraska's current adoption law. It should not increase significantly the cost of adoption. In fact, as I mentioned before, it merely sets forth a notice