1 A bill to be entitled 2 An act relating to the medical records of a child 3 available for adoption; amending ss. 63.082, 63.085, and 63.093, F.S.; requiring certain written 4 5 notification be provided to prospective adoptive 6 parents regarding the medical records of the child 7 available for adoption; amending s. 63.142, F.S.; 8 requiring the Department of Health to provide certain 9 medical records to adopting parents within a specified 10 time after entry of a judgment of adoption; 11 prohibiting the department from disposing of such 12 records for a specified time; providing an effective 13 date. 14 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida: 15 16 17 Section 1. Paragraph (d) of subsection (6) of section 18 63.082, Florida Statutes, is amended to read: 19 63.082 Execution of consent to adoption or affidavit of 20 nonpaternity; family social and medical history; revocation of 21 consent.-22 (6) 23 If after consideration of all relevant factors, 24 including those set forth in paragraph (e), the court determines

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that the prospective adoptive parents are properly qualified to

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adopt the minor child and that the adoption is in the best interests of the minor child, the court shall promptly order the transfer of custody of the minor child to the prospective adoptive parents, under the supervision of the adoption entity. The court may establish reasonable requirements for the transfer of custody in the transfer order, including a reasonable period of time to transition final custody to the prospective adoptive parents. The adoption entity shall thereafter provide monthly supervision reports to the department until finalization of the adoption. If the child has been determined to be dependent by the court, the department shall provide the following written information to the prospective adoptive parents at the time they receive placement of the dependent child:

- 1. Information regarding approved parent training classes available within the community.
- 2. Information that upon adoption, a child's immunization records are removed from the Florida Shots database within the Department of Health, and the necessity to retain the complete set of the child's medical records that are provided to the prospective adoptive parents under s. 63.085(2)(a), as they may be needed for school enrollment and future medical care.

The department shall file with the court an acknowledgment of the parent's receipt of the information required under this paragraph regarding approved parent training classes available

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within the community.

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Section 2. Paragraph (a) of subsection (2) of section 63.085, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

- 63.085 Disclosure by adoption entity.-
- (2) DISCLOSURE TO ADOPTIVE PARENTS.-
- At the time that an adoption entity is responsible for selecting prospective adoptive parents for a born or unborn child whose parents are seeking to place the child for adoption or whose rights were terminated under pursuant to chapter 39, the adoption entity must provide the prospective adoptive parents with information concerning the background of the child to the extent such information is disclosed to the adoption entity by the parents, legal custodian, or the department. This subsection applies only if the adoption entity identifies the prospective adoptive parents and supervises the placement of the child in the prospective adoptive parents' home. If any information cannot be disclosed because the records custodian failed or refused to produce the background information, the adoption entity has a duty to provide the information if it becomes available. An individual or entity contacted by an adoption entity to obtain the background information must release the requested information to the adoption entity without the necessity of a subpoena or a court order. In all cases, the prospective adoptive parents must receive all available information by the date of the final hearing on the petition for

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adoption. The information to be disclosed includes:

- 1. A family social and medical history form completed pursuant to s. 63.162(6).
- 2. The biological mother's medical records documenting her prenatal care and the birth and delivery of the child.
- 3. A complete set of the child's medical records documenting all medical treatment and care since the child's birth and before placement. The adoption entity must inform prospective adoptive parents that upon adoption, a child's immunization records are removed from the Florida Shots database within the Department of Health, and the adoption entity must provide written notification to the prospective adoptive parents regarding the necessity to retain a complete set of the child's medical records as they may be needed for school enrollment and future medical care.
- 4. All mental health, psychological, and psychiatric records, reports, and evaluations concerning the child before placement.
- 5. The child's educational records, including all records concerning any special education needs of the child before placement.
- 6. Records documenting all incidents that required the department to provide services to the child, including all orders of adjudication of dependency or termination of parental rights issued pursuant to chapter 39, any case plans drafted to

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address the child's needs, all protective services 101 102 investigations identifying the child as a victim, and all 103 quardian ad litem reports filed with the court concerning the 104 child.

Written information concerning the availability of adoption subsidies for the child, if applicable.

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- Section 3. Subsection (6) is added to section 63.093, Florida Statutes, to read:
- 63.093 Adoption of children from the child welfare system.-
- (6) If the community-based care lead agency or its subcontracted agency approves the adoptive parent's application file, the community-based care lead agency or its subcontracted agency must provide written notification to the prospective adoptive parent that upon adoption, a child's immunization records are removed from the Florida Shots database within the Department of Health, and the necessity to retain a complete set of the child's medical records as they may be needed for school enrollment and future medical care.

121 Notwithstanding subsections (1) and (2), this section does not 122 apply to a child adopted through the process provided in s. 63.082(6). 123

Section 4. Subsection (4) of section 63.142, Florida 125 Statutes, is amended to read:

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63.142 Hearing; judgment of adoption.-

(4) JUDGMENT.-

- (a) At the conclusion of the hearing, after the court determines that the date for a parent to file an appeal of a valid judgment terminating that parent's parental rights has passed and no appeal, pursuant to the Florida Rules of Appellate Procedure, is pending and that the adoption is in the best interest of the person to be adopted, a judgment of adoption shall be entered. A judgment terminating parental rights pending adoption is voidable and any later judgment of adoption of that minor is voidable if, upon a parent's motion for relief from judgment, the court finds that the adoption substantially fails to meet the requirements of this chapter. The motion must be filed within a reasonable time, but not later than 1 year after the date the judgment terminating parental rights was entered.
- (b) Upon entry of a judgment of adoption, the clerk of the court shall transmit a certified copy of the entry to the Department of Health. Within 15 business days after receipt of the certified copy of the entry of judgment of adoption, the Department of Health must provide, by e-mail or certified mail, return receipt requested, a complete set of the adopted child's medical records, including the child's immunization records, to the adopting parents. The Department of Health may not dispose of an adopted child's medical and immunization records until 16 business days after the court enters the judgment of adoption.

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Section 5. This act shall take effect July 1, 2021.

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