

HB

621

# COMMITTEE REPORT

## SENATE

4/22/82

FURTHER: None

Date: May 12, 1982

Mr. President:

The Committee on JUDICIARY has had SSHB 621 am

issuance of certificates of birth for persons born outside the United States and adopted by Alaska residents

under consideration and (a majority of the committee) (the committee) reports it back with the following recommendations:

- do pass  do not pass
- do pass with attached amendments(s)
- replace with CS for SSHB 621  same title  
 new title
- and recommends DO PASS
- AND attaches a "Letter of Intent"  New Fiscal Note
- reports it back without recommendation
- referred to the \_\_\_\_\_ Committee

MEMBERS SIGNING  
DO PASS

MEMBERS HAVING  
OTHER RECOMMENDATIONS:

Walter Anderson  
Blaine

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CHAIRMAN

DO PASS

Minutes of Senate Judiciary Committee  
for April 12, 1982:

See Sen. Jud. '82 file folder on HB 2



Official Business

# Alaska State Legislature

## Senate

### Committee on Judiciary

Pouch V  
State Capitol  
Juneau, Alaska 99811

#### MINUTES OF THE SENATE JUDICIARY COMMITTEE

OF

APRIL 30, 1982

Butrovich Committee Room, State Capitol Juneau, Alaska

#### Legislation Before Committee:

- HB 849 - "An Act relating to electric and telephone cooperatives."
- HB 621 - "An Act providing for the issuance of certificates of birth for persons born outside the United States and adopted by Alaska residents."
- SJR 61 - Proposing amendments to the Constitution of the State of Alaska relating to appropriations and the retention, investment and expenditure of certain state revenues; and superseding the amendments proposed by Legislative Resolve No. 1, First Special Session of the Twelfth Legislature (FSS FCCS SJR 4).
- HB 591 - "An Act making corrective amendments in the Alaska Statutes as recommended by the revisor of statutes; and providing for an effective date."

The meeting of the Senate Judiciary Committee was called to order by Chairman Rodey at 1:30 P.M. Committee members present were: Senators Rodey, Parr, Anderson. Senators Bennett and Ray were absent.

001 - Call to order.

003 - Chairman Rodey brought HB 849 before the committee.

010 - Mr. Hutchins testified in favor of HB 849.

098 - Senator Rodey made the following amendments: On Page 1, Line 25, insert a "." after the word "mail". On Page 1, Line 25, delete [except that] and insert "However". On Page 1, Line 26, delete [may] and insert "shall", delete [if] insert "unless otherwise", insert "for" between "provided" and "by", delete [by] and insert "in". Also on Page 2, after Subparagraph (2), add a new subparagraph (3) to include attorney client privilege. There was no objection.

117 - For the record Senator Ray entered the meeting.

595 - Senator Parr moved on Page 2, subsection (d) delete [Reasonable]. On Page 2, Line 19, insert "of the board of directors" after "meetings". Insert "as provided for in each cooperatives bylaws" after "directors". Delete [required to be open under this section.] There was no objection. Senator Parr also moved that a new section 1 be added to the bill which would read, Sec. 10.15.00E. Purposes for which cooperatives may be organized. A cooperative may be organized under this chapter for any lawful purpose, except for the purpose of [BANKING OR INSURANCE OR] the furnishing of electric or telephone service. (3 ch 107 SLA 1959).

604 - Senator Anderson moved to adopt the committee substitute. There was no objection.

609 - Senator Anderson moved to pass HB 849 with individual recommendations. There was no objection.

628 - Chairman Rodey next brought SB 621 before the committee.

630 - After brief discussion, Senator Parr asked to work as a sub-committee on SB 621. There was no objection.

635 - Next Chairman Rodey brought SJR 61 before the committee.

645 - Senator Ray moved on Page 2, Line 14, "investments in" be deleted. There was no objection. Senator Ray also moved that on line 8, page 2, the word "in" be inserted between the words "and" and "programs".

721 - Senator Rodey moved to pass SJR 61 with individual recommendations. There was no objection.

744 - The last item on the agenda was HB 591.

748 - Mr. Walker, Revisor of Statutes, testified in favor of HB 591.

823 - After brief discussion, Chairman Rodey adjourned the meeting at 2:30 P.M.



Official Business

# Alaska State Legislature

## Senate

### Committee on Judiciary

Pouch V  
State Capitol  
Juneau, Alaska 99911

#### MINUTES OF THE SENATE JUDICIARY COMMITTEE

OF

APRIL 29, 1982

Butrovich Committee Room, State Capitol Juneau, Alaska

#### Legislation Before Committee:

- HB 184 - "An Act authorizing convening special sessions of the legislature at any location in the state."
- HB 621 - "An Act providing for the issuance of certificates of birth for persons born outside the United States and adopted by Alaska residents."
- HB 678 - "An Act relating to membership in electric and telephone cooperatives."
- HB 339 - "An Act relating to the judicial review of administrative regulations."

The meeting of the Senate Judiciary Committee was called to order by Chairman Rodey at 5:10 P.M. Committee members present were: Senators Anderson, Parr, and Rodey. Senators Bennett and Ray were absent.

003 - Call to order.

010 - Mr. Bruce distributed HB 184, Rep. Martin's bill.

019 - Senator Anderson moved to pass HB 184. There was no objection.

053 - Chairman Rodey brought HB 621 before the committee.

060 - Joan Brooks, Vital Statistics, testified in favor of HB 621.

192 - Jan Ivey, Juneau Adoptive Parents Group, testified in favor of this legislation also.

267 - Chairman Rodey laid HB 621 on the table.

276 - The next item on the agenda was HB 678.

290 - After brief discussion, Chairman Rodey laid HB 678 on the table.

293 - The last item of business was HB 339.

297 - Mr. Art Peterson, Department of Law, testified, stating that if the burden of proof agreement were taken out of , then the Department of Law would be in agreement with this bill.

348 - Diane Colvin, Department of Law, testified, explaining the committee substitute.

709 - After brief discussion, Chairman Rodey laid HB 339 on the table.

712 - Chairman Rodey adjourned the meeting at 5:50 P.M.

POSITION PAPER / Department of Health & Social Services

POSITION PAPER

SPONSOR SUBSTITUTE FOR HOUSE BILL NO. 621am

"An Act providing for the issuance of certificates of birth for persons born outside the United States and adopted by Alaska residents."

The Department recognizes that this is an emotional issue to those new parents of adopted aliens, who feel it is very important for their child to have a birth certification document from the State of Alaska. More than 30 states now have similar legislation. However, we would like to bring to the Committee's attention that, of the 650 to 700 adoptions granted each year in Alaska, only 3 to 4 percent are adoptions of foreign-born aliens, amounting to about 25, and of these, less than half are adoptions of Asian children.

The Registration Methods Branch of the National Center for Health Statistics has opposed the establishment of a birth certificate by any state for a foreign-born alien. This position is based on the firm belief, of more than 40 years standing, that the basic principle of registration is to record vital events where they occur. The Model Vital Statistics Act, endorsed by the Council of State Governments, makes no provision for such a birth certificate because of the ease by which abuses might result. A person could enter the United States using his original birth certificate, become adopted, and establish an entirely new identity without becoming a citizen. Even if the new certificate bears the statement that it is not evidence of United States citizenship it could be misleading because, in most cases, both adoptive parents are native to this country.

Passage of this bill would give a selected few people two birth certificates, one in the country of birth and one in Alaska. Children born to American citizens in a foreign country get only one birth certificate, and it is from that foreign jurisdiction. When a person, born in Alaska, is adopted, the original record is sealed away and replaced by a substitute birth certificate. Hence, an alien would always have two birth certificates, but the Alaska-born adoptee does not.

It is the opinion of the Department of Health & Social Services that the need addressed in this bill is already satisfied. In 1960 the U.S. State Department recognized that aliens in this country needed an acceptable document as proof of date and place of birth. Since that time the birth record issued by the U.S. Immigration and Naturalization Service has been totally accepted by all jurisdictions. Should the alien become naturalized, further documentation is provided. A birth record prepared by the State of Alaska for an adopted alien is a duplication of effort and does not maintain the integrity of vital records by registering only births which occur in Alaska.

Sponsor Substitute for House Bill No. 621 am limits the provisions of this act to adoptees under the age of 18 years. The certificate prepared will be on a form designed to suit the need, similar to the forms used by other states.

The certificate will bear the statement that it is not evidence of United States citizenship. However, upon proof of naturalization, a new certificate will be prepared deleting the statement that the certificate is not evidence of United State citizenship.

The Department of Health and Social Services supports passage of SSHB 621 am.

RECOMMENDED BY: Joan P. Brooks  
JOAN P. BROOKS  
STATE REGISTRAR  
BUREAU OF VITAL  
STATISTICS

DATE: February 11, 1982

APPROVED BY: Helen D. Beirne  
HELEN D. BEIRNE  
COMMISSIONER  
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH &  
SOCIAL SERVICES

DATE: 2-14-82

THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA  
TWELFTH LEGISLATURE

FISCAL NOTE

I. REQUEST

Bill/Resolution No. Sponsor Substitute for House Bill 621 am  
Title "An Act providing for the issuance of certificates of birth"  
Requested by \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

II. FISCAL DETAIL

Agency Affected Department of Health & Social Services  
Program Category Affected Administrative Services  
BRU, Program, Or Subprogram(s) Affected Vital Statistics  
(Note: If more than one budget component is affected, separate line-item amounts and funding for each component in the analysis section.)

EXPENDITURES (Thousands of Dollars)

	FY 82	FY 83	FY 84	FY 85	FY 86	FY 87
100 PERSONAL SERVICES	0	0	0	0	0	0
200 TRAVEL						
300 CONTRACTUAL						
400 COMMODITIES						
500 EQUIPMENT						
600 LAND & STRUCTURES						
700 GRANTS, CLAIMS, ETC.						
TOTAL	0	0	0	0	0	0

FUNDING (Thousands of Dollars)

GENERAL FUND	0	0	0	0	0	0
FEDERAL FUNDS						
OTHER (Specify Source)						

POSITIONS

FULL TIME	0	0	0	0	0	0
PART TIME						
TEMPORARY						

III. ANALYSIS (See Fiscal Note Preparation Instruction, Section III)

No fiscal impact

IV. DATE

Feb. 11, 1982

PREPARED BY

Jean P. Eranks

AGENCY D.H.S.S.

PHONE 465-3391

Original: Legislative Finance  
cc: Budget and Management

Prime Sponsor (First Legislator Named)

33-001 (Rev. 12/81)

House Bill 621, relating to birth certificates

Passage of this bill would allow foreign born children who are adopted by residents of the state to obtain an Alaskan birth certificate. Although this birth certificate would not be a proof of citizenship and the child would still have to be naturalized, it would remove the stigma associated with certificates provided by the U.S. Department of Immigration and Naturalization.

Sectional Analysis of SSHB621

Sec. 1. (a) This section deals with the report of adoption. The added language of lines 15--20 adds flexibility to the existing statute by deleting the necessity for an original birth certificate. Findings may be requested by parents which could be used to establish a birth certificate for foreign born adopted children.

Sec. 2. Limits the location for forwarding a copy of an adoption report, vacation or amendment of an adoption document to the United States.

Sec. 3. Allows the state registrar to issue birth certificates for foreign born children if the parents were residents of Alaska at the time of adoption. The child or his parent or guardian must request this and there must be an adoption report together with information necessary to identify the original birth certificate or court findings. The findings may be replaced by an affidavit of the adoptive parent if the adoption took place prior to the effective date of this bill. The adopted person may not be 18 years or older at the time application is made. The registrar shall prescribe the form and it is not proof of citizenship.

Sec. 4. Provides for changing the name on the birth certificate and adds foreign born adopted children whose parents were residents of the state at the time of adoption.

Sec. 5. Divides this section into subsections. Requires that parents request a birth certificate within 30 days of adoption decree from the clerk of court and expands the location that the application be forwarded to include the registrar of state vital statistics in cases of foreign birth. If parents request, findings shall be provided in addition to an adoption report. These findings shall specify the date, place of birth and parentage of the adopted person based on evidence from the petitioner and/or reliable state or federal sources. These findings shall be certified and included with the report of adoption.

## HOUSE BILL NO. 621

### PROBLEM OVERVIEW

1. Many adopted foreign-born children have no legal birth certificates from their country of birth. In most of the heavily-populated nations, especially in Asia, vital events are not routinely recorded. Parents of foreign-born adopted children have no recourse to these foreign governments to obtain birth documents.
2. The legislatures of 28 states have responded to the concerns of adoptive parents, and are issuing birth certificates to adopted foreign-born children.

### INTENT OF LEGISLATION

1. A birth certificate is a legal document reflecting the facts of birth. These certificates, if issued by the State of Alaska, will record the foreign country in which the child was born, the birth date, the child's legal name, and the names of the child's legal parents. A birth certificate is the right of every citizen.
2. The small, paper card issued by Immigration, called the "Certification of Birth Data," is unknown to the average person and to many persons in government. Non-acceptance of this card as an alternative to a birth certificate could cause serious difficulties in the future for these adopted individuals. A birth certificate issued by the State of Alaska would help to ensure that these adopted persons will have the latitude to move freely within the framework of our society on an equal par with their American-born brothers and sisters.
3. That Alaska would issue birth certificates to only those adopted foreign-born children whose parents were residents of Alaska at the time the adoption decree was granted. No foreign-born child is granted a preferential visa by Immigration and Naturalization unless the Social Service Board of Alaska has given permission for the child to enter the state. This applies to both adoptions which occur in Alaskan courts and those which occur in foreign courts.
4. The birth certificate will state that it is not evidence of citizenship. This statement will in no way interfere with other proofs of citizenship (naturalization documents or birth reports issued by the U.S. Dept. of State) which all of these children will eventually have

5. If a legal foreign birth document exists, then the Alaskan birth certificate would be prepared from the facts reported on the foreign one. Although both documents may be considered prima facie evidence of birth, this should create no problems since the facts reported in each case would be identical. For the majority of children who have no foreign birth certificates, possible duplication of prima facie evidence would not occur.
6. That the State of Alaska would issue retroactive birth certificates to include persons adopted prior to passage of the bill.
7. The birth certificate shall be in the same form as others issued by the state.

REVISED  
POSITION PAPER

HOUSE BILL NO. 621

"An Act providing for the issuance of certificates of birth for persons born outside the United States and adopted by Alaska residents."

The Department recognizes that this is an emotional issue to those new parents of adopted aliens, who feel it is very important for their child to have a birth certification document from the State of Alaska. More than 30 states now have similar legislation. However, we would like to bring to the Committee's attention that, of the 650 to 700 adoptions granted each year in Alaska, only 3 to 4 percent are adoptions of foreign-born aliens, amounting to about 25, and of these, less than half are adoptions of Asian children.

The Registration Methods Branch of the National Center for Health Statistics has opposed the establishment of a birth certificate by any state for a foreign-born alien. This position is based on the firm belief, of more than 40 years standing, that the basic principle of registration is to record vital events where they occur. The Model Vital Statistics Act, endorsed by the Council of State Governments, makes no provision for such a birth certificate because of the ease by which abuses might result. A person could enter the United States using his original birth certificate, become adopted, and establish an entirely new identity without becoming a citizen. Even if the new certificate bears the statement that it is not evidence of United States citizenship, it could be misleading because, in most cases, both adoptive parents are native to this country.

Passage of this bill would give a selected few people two birth certificates, one in the country of birth and one in Alaska. Children born to American citizens in a foreign country get only one birth certificate, and it is from that foreign jurisdiction. When a person, born in Alaska, is adopted, the original record is sealed away and replaced by a substitute birth certificate. Hence, an alien would always have two birth certificates, but the Alaska-born adoptee does not.

It is the opinion of the Department of Health & Social Services that the need addressed in this bill is already satisfied. In 1960 the U.S. State Department recognized that aliens in this country needed an acceptable document as proof of date and place of birth. Since that time the birth record issued by the U.S. Immigration and Naturalization Service has been totally accepted by all jurisdictions. Should the alien become naturalized, further documentation is provided. A birth record prepared by the State of Alaska for an adopted alien is a duplication of effort and does not maintain the integrity of vital records by registering only births which occur in Alaska.

It is recommended that the provisions of this bill be limited to minor foreign-born aliens adopted in Alaska, and that the certificate provided be on a form designed to suit the need, but not in the identical style of the standard certificate of birth for Alaska.

With these amendments, the Department of Health & Social Services would support passage of HB No. 621.

RECOMMENDED BY: Joan P. Brooks  
JOAN P. BROOKS  
STATE REGISTRAR  
BUREAU OF VITAL  
STATISTICS

DATE: January 25, 1982

APPROVED BY: Helen D. Beirne  
HELEN D. BEIRNE  
COMMISSIONER  
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH &  
SOCIAL SERVICES

DATE: 1-26-82

THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA  
TWELFTH LEGISLATURE

FISCAL NOTE

I. REQUEST

Bill/Resolution No. HOUSE BILL NO. 621  
 Title "An Act providing for the issuance of certificates of birth"  
 Requested by \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

II. FISCAL DETAIL

Agency Affected Department of Health & Social Services  
 Program Category Affected Administrative Services  
 ERU, Program, Or Subprogram(s) Affected Vital Statistics  
 (Note: If more than one budget component is affected, separate line-item amounts and funding for each component in the analysis section.)

EXPENDITURES (Thousands of Dollars)

	FY 82	FY 83	FY 84	FY 85	FY 86	FY 87
100 PERSONAL SERVICES	0	0	0	0	0	0
200 TRAVEL						
300 CONTRACTUAL						
400 COMMODITIES						
500 EQUIPMENT						
600 LAND & STRUCTURES						
700 GRANTS, CLAIMS, ETC.						
TOTAL	0	0	0	0	0	0

FUNDING (Thousands of Dollars)

	FY 82	FY 83	FY 84	FY 85	FY 86	FY 87
GENERAL FUND	0	0	0	0	0	0
FEDERAL FUNDS						
OTHER (Specify Source)						

POSITIONS

	FY 82	FY 83	FY 84	FY 85	FY 86	FY 87
FULL TIME	0	0	0	0	0	0
PART TIME						
TEMPORARY						

III. ANALYSIS (See Fiscal Note Preparation Instruction, Section III)

No fiscal impact

IV. DATE

January 25, 1982

PREPARED BY

Paul P. Brack

AGENCY D.H. & S.S.

PHONE 465-3391

Original: Legislative Finance

cc: Budget and Management

Prime Sponsor (First Legislator Named)

*Boirne*

January 18, 1982

TO: Legislative Affairs Agency

TO: Reps. Bettisworth, Brown, Farming, Randolph, Rogers and Smith, Boirne, & Abood  
Sens. Fahrenkamp, Bennett, and Parr

Please send the following message to the Fairbanks Legislative delegation members, to Representative Michael F. Boirne, Chairman of the House Health, Education & Social Services Committee, and to Representative Mitchell E. Abood, Jr.:

We the undersigned support House Bill 621 allowing the issuance of Alaska substitute birth certificates to foreign born children adopted in Alaska.

<u>Print Name:</u>	<u>Signature:</u>	<u>Address:</u>	<u>Phone:</u>
<u>Dennis E. Cook</u>	<u><i>Dennis E. Cook</i></u>	<u>512-50119 Fairbanks</u>	<u>452-1851</u>
<u>REYLY L. EVERTS</u>	<u><i>Reyly L. Everts</i></u>	<u>P.O. BOX 1421 FAIRBANKS</u>	<u>452-3803</u>
<u>GRACE BURG SCHWALS</u>	<u><i>Grace Burg Schwals</i></u>	<u>PO Box 3712 FAIRBANKS</u>	<u>479-6434</u>
<u>Norma J. Long</u>	<u><i>Norma J. Long</i></u>	<u>265 Sprucewood</u>	<u>479-4583</u>
<u>Lisa R. Belder</u>	<u><i>Lisa R. Belder</i></u>	<u>16.5 mile Pl. Lake Sp.</u>	<u>458-6269</u>
<u>Ellen A. Craig</u>	<u><i>Ellen A. Craig</i></u>	<u>1050 Gilmore</u>	<u>452-1855</u>
<u>Sharon K. Brossin</u>	<u><i>Sharon K. Brossin</i></u>	<u>430 Bentley Dr</u>	<u>456-5676</u>
<u>Miriam R Tuttle</u>	<u><i>Miriam R Tuttle</i></u>	<u>5209 R Kadunk St</u>	<u>377-3454</u>
<u>Pat L. Sumner</u>	<u><i>Pat L. Sumner</i></u>	<u>S.R # 70236</u>	<u>488-6003</u>
<u>Elizabeth L. Johnson</u>	<u><i>Elizabeth L. Johnson</i></u>	<u>SP 40465</u>	<u>452-1835</u>
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____

1/19/82

Telephone contact with Joan Brooks of Vital Records

<u>Year</u>	<u>Total Adoptions</u>	<u>Foreign</u>	<u>%</u>
1978	672	18	2.6
1979	634	32	5
1980	650	29	4
1981 (incom.)	653	23	4

She reports that the National Center for Health Certificates is against HB 621 because it could create abuses and be misleading. The big fear is that adults could be adopted and obtain what easily looks like and could be mistaken for a American birth certificate. Also, military personnel are not afforded the same courtesy when their children are born outside the borders of the U.S.

- 1) Burden on officials to scrutinize
- 2) Parents of foreign born children often think that this is equivalent to naturalization.
- 3) Double certification--valid certificate in both countries.
- 4) Placation of parents is major feature--they have an emotional investment in making their children Americans.
- 5) U.S. military children have to naturalize.
- 6) Original alien card issued by U.S. Imm.-- has original place of birth, no parents names.  
The Alaskan one under HB 621 would have American parents' names. Can obtain Immigration card to name change by court very easily.
- 7) Department of Justice will not give out statistics.

Called for contact for naturalization information:

Anchorage District Office is 265-4387  
766-2880

## living and leisure

# Adopting couples seek children in other nations

By GWEN BARCUS  
Daily News reporter

**W**ith more and more unwed mothers opting to keep their babies and abortion the chosen route for some who don't want to bear a child, the number of infants available for adoption in the United States is dwindling — and is far outstripped by families that want to adopt.

Because of this imbalance, some prospective parents are turning to other countries for children.

At best, adopting a child is complicated. But when the adoption involves a foreign nation, the problems are compounded. Prospective parents must:

- Find an American agency that will handle the adoption.
- Arrange for actual physical possession of the child.
- Research and comply with regulations governing adoptions in both the U.S. and the child's native land.
- Cope with federal and state regulations involving tax matters and birth certificates.

Anchorage's Jean and Walt Bhagatram have three adopted children: Alexander, 7, Kattia, 5, and little Nicholas, who just celebrated his first birthday. All are beautiful children, and obviously not blood relatives of their parents. The older son and daughter are Korean and the baby is from Taiwan. Each child came to the Bhagatrams at the age of 4 months.

Jean laughs as she says, "The family teases me about being the 'different' one. Besides the children coming from two different countries, my husband is Russian, born in China with an Indian background."

"We always wanted to adopt children," she says. "We chose that route to build our family."

For the Bhagatrams, the shortage of American babies and the complexity of the U.S. adoption system prompted them to look across the border.

Most American adoption agencies have an "incredible number of rules," according to Carol Dickinson of the Anchorage Adoptive Parents Association. Age of parents, square feet of space for the child's room, income and other matters are considered. She says foreign agencies, on the other

hand, are more concerned with finding someone who can feed and care for a child.

When Anchorage's Tom and Joan Wilkinson decided they wanted a baby, they also agreed they didn't want to add to the world population.

"We set out to adopt an Oriental child," Tom says. "But it wasn't easy. We were living in Texas at the time and tried the local agencies with no success."

Then Joan read a magazine article about an agency in Oklahoma that specialized in adoption of the foreign-born.

"Still, it was a long and arduous task," Tom says. "We waited 26 months."

By December 1979, when 3-year-old Karyn arrived from Korea, the couple was living in Anchorage.

"It was fortunate we were transferred here," Tom says. "Many people who adopt a foreign child must go to the child's native land and bring them home. Others must travel to some central pickup point in the U.S."

But because the Wilkinsons lived here, they only had to drive to Anchorage International Airport.

Walt Bhagatram played a role in the adoption of another Asian child by an Anchorage couple. Reid and Sandy Bond had decided to adopt a Korean baby when it became apparent they would not have a child themselves. They, too, were frustrated by the lack of interest shown by adoption agencies in Arizona, where they lived at that time.

After the Bonds moved to Anchorage, however, they heard of a Chinese infant in Taiwan, and when Bhagatram went to that country last May to pick up his son, Nicholas, he took photographs of the baby the Bonds had learned about.

"We decided immediately that we wanted him," Sandy says, and they began adoption proceedings. In November, the Bonds traveled to Taiwan to get their son, Christopher Reid, who was then 8 months old.

All three families have gone to great expense to adopt their children: The adoption proceedings cost \$3,500 to \$5,000, Sandy Bond says, with perhaps an additional \$1,000 in travel expenses. Adoptive parents are not allowed to deduct any of



Their T-shirts leave no doubt about who stands where in the Bhagatram family's age line. From left are 'Little Brother' Nicholas, 1; 'Big Sister' Kattia, 5; and 'Big Brother' Alexander, 7.

Sandy and Reid Bond found their son, Christopher, in Taiwan.

these expenses from their income tax. Parents who have children in the U.S., on the other hand, can deduct some childbirth expenses. This adoptive parents contend, is unfair.

Ann and Fern Chandonnet, an Eagle River couple who adopted a Costa Rican child nine years ago, are part of a growing movement to change this law.

When the difficulties of finding a baby in the United States became apparent, the Chandonnets went the route of other frustrated adoptive parents and sought a child from outside the country.

They went to Costa Rica from their home, then Oakland, Calif., to pick up Yves. Their lawyer in Costa Rica anticipated they would have difficulty obtaining a birth certificate for the child in the U.S., so she suggested that they baptize Yves as soon as they returned home and send her the baptismal record.

They followed the lawyer's

## coming attractions



Anchorage Daily News/Tom Alvariz



advice and she obtained a birth certificate for Yves — in Spanish.

Then, four years ago, "when I couldn't be accused of trying to seek special privilege for myself," Ann says she proposed legislation in Alaska that would allow a deduction on the state income tax for expenses incurred in adopting a child.

A bill was introduced, passed by the House but defeated in the Senate. Now that Alaska has abolished the state income tax, the Chandonnets are seek-

ing legislation that would allow a deduction on federal income tax returns.

Alaska, however, remains one of 16 states that do not issue birth certificates to foreign-born adoptees. The document is required on many occasions: entering school, joining the Little League, getting into military service and marrying, for example.

Rep. Mitch Abood, R-Anchorage, is seeking to remedy that situation with a bill he has introduced allowing the issu-

ance of birth certificates to foreign-born children under age 18 who have been adopted by Alaskans.

If passed, the law would be retroactive and apply to children adopted before its passage.

A local support group for parents of foreign-born children, the Anchorage Adoptive Parents Association, may be helpful in supplying information on child adoption. Interested persons may call Becky Wel at 514-5660.