

# HB1818



## 100TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY

State of Illinois

2017 and 2018

HB1818

by Rep. Tim Butler

### SYNOPSIS AS INTRODUCED:

New Act

Creates the Bicentennial Families Act. Provides that any Illinois family that can trace its descent in this State back at least 200 years may apply to the Illinois State Archives to have that family recognized as a "Bicentennial Family". Provides requirements to qualify for recognition as a "Bicentennial Family". Provides for the duties of the State Archives in recognition of a "Bicentennial Family". Provides that all fees and costs of the application process and production of the "Bicentennial Family" certificate shall be provided by the applying family. Defines terms.

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A BILL FOR

1 AN ACT concerning government.

2 **Be it enacted by the People of the State of Illinois,**  
3 **represented in the General Assembly:**

4 Section 1. Short title. This Act may be cited as the  
5 Bicentennial Families Act.

6 Section 5. Definitions.

7 "Bicentennial Family" means an Illinois family that is  
8 either lineal descendants or collateral descendants of a person  
9 or persons having resided in this State at least 200 years  
10 prior to that family's application to be recognized as a  
11 "Bicentennial Family", and the family has remained in this  
12 State since that ancestor.

13 "Collateral descendant" means a relative descended from a  
14 brother or sister of an ancestor, such as a niece, nephew, or  
15 cousin.

16 "Director" means the Director of the Illinois State  
17 Archives.

18 "Lineal descendant" means a person who is in a direct line  
19 of descent from an ancestor, such as a child, grandchild, or  
20 great-grandchild, and so on.

21 Section 10. Bicentennial families.

22 (a) Any Illinois family that can trace its descent in this

1 State back at least 200 years may apply to the Illinois State  
2 Archives to have that family recognized as a "Bicentennial  
3 Family".

4 (b) To qualify for recognition as a "Bicentennial Family",  
5 the applicant must: (1) be an Illinois resident; (2) be a  
6 member of the family seeking to be recognized as a  
7 "Bicentennial Family"; and (3) provide documentation to the  
8 State Archives showing that his or her family is either lineal  
9 descendants or collateral descendants of a person or persons  
10 that resided in this State at least 200 years prior to that  
11 family's application to be recognized as a "Bicentennial  
12 Family", and the family has remained in this State since that  
13 ancestor.

14 (c) Upon receipt of the relevant documentation, the State  
15 Archives shall verify whether the requesting family qualifies  
16 to be recognized as a "Bicentennial Family". If the family  
17 qualifies as a "Bicentennial Family", then the family shall be  
18 awarded a certificate in recognition of that status by the  
19 State Archives. The design of the certificate shall be wholly  
20 within the discretion of the Director, except that the  
21 certificate shall at a minimum bear the words "Bicentennial  
22 Family" and the year in which the applicant's earliest ancestor  
23 can be traced.

24 (d) All fees and costs of the application process and  
25 production of the certificate shall be provided by the applying  
26 family.