

HB 932 -- Paternity

Sponsor: Harris (23)

This bill changes the laws regarding the establishment of paternity. The Family Support Division within the Department of Social Services is required to provide an identification of presumptive father form when a child is born to an unmarried woman or a woman who is married but whose husband is not the father. The form will contain information on the identity and location of the presumptive father, including his Social Security number and last known employer. The form is not an affidavit and does not subject the mother to civil or criminal penalties provided she acted in good faith.

The division will provide documents on child support, parenting, visitation, and health insurance to the mother to help establish a parent and child relationship. The division will maintain a file on each child and take the necessary steps to locate the presumptive father.

If a presumptive father is located, the division will attempt to obtain a DNA sample to establish paternity. If the DNA test confirms paternity, the division will notify the presumptive father of his rights and responsibilities regarding the child. Once paternity has been established, the Attorney General may recover any administrative costs related to the test.