

HB 3197 -- GENETIC TESTING

SPONSOR: Rush

This bill requires, beginning on January 1, 2027, a genetic test to be administered at the time of birth for every newborn infant in this state when a putative father is identified, paternity of the newborn is disputed, or the mother or alleged father requests testing.

Paternity shall be legally established only upon receipt of a valid genetic test confirming a biological relationship of at least 99% probability.

If a genetic test excludes a putative father, that individual bears no legal or financial responsibility for the child, including child support. Additionally, an "absent parent", as that term is defined in the bill, will not accrue child support obligations until paternity is genetically established.

The bill creates the "Missouri Genetic Testing Fund", moneys in which are to be used to cover all or part of the costs of genetic testing for persons who are not able to pay for that testing.

This bill provides that genetic test results must be used exclusively for establishing paternity and for child support purposes and not used for criminal investigations without a court order. Except when voluntarily retained, all genetic materials and data will be destroyed after a paternity determination is complete.