

2026 Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 535

BY REPRESENTATIVE CHENEVERT

PATERNITY: Provides relative to authentic acts for acknowledgment of paternity

1 AN ACT

2 To amend and reenact R.S. 40:46.12(E), relative to hospital-based paternity programs; to
3 provide relative to a voluntary acknowledgment of paternity; to provide relative to
4 the formality of a voluntary acknowledgment; and to provide for related matters.

5 Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

6 Section 1. R.S. 40:46.12(E) is hereby amended and reenacted to read as follows:

7 §46.12. Hospital-based paternity program

8 * * *

9 E. A voluntary acknowledgment executed in accordance with this Section
10 shall be signed by both parents and the parents' signatures shall be authenticated by
11 a person possessing notarial powers in accordance with state laws and does not
12 otherwise require the presence or signature of two witnesses. Any acknowledgment
13 of paternity obtained through a hospital-based paternity program pursuant to the
14 process set forth in this Section has the same force and effect as an authentic act for
15 purposes of changing or recording the paternity of the child with the state registrar
16 of vital records. The provisions of this Subsection do not apply to parents under the
17 age of eighteen who must establish paternity as otherwise provided by law.

18 * * *

DIGEST

The digest printed below was prepared by House Legislative Services. It constitutes no part of the legislative instrument. The keyword, one-liner, abstract, and digest do not constitute part of the law or proof or indicia of legislative intent. [R.S. 1:13(B) and 24:177(E)]

HB 535 Engrossed

2026 Regular Session

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Abstract: Provides relative to the formalities of a voluntary acknowledgment form.

Present law (R.S. 40:46.12(E)) requires a voluntary acknowledgment form executed in accordance with a hospital-based paternity program to be signed by both parents and for the parents' signatures to be authenticated by a person possessing notarial powers.

Proposed law specifies the requirement for the acknowledgment of paternity form and provides that there is no requirement for the presence or signature of two witnesses.

Proposed law provides that any acknowledgment of paternity obtained through a hospital-based paternity program has the same force and effect as an authentic act for purposes of changing or recording the paternity of a child with the state registrar of vital records.

Proposed law does not apply to parents under the age of 18 who must establish paternity as otherwise established by law.

(Amends R.S. 40:46.12(E))