

2026 Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 535

BY REPRESENTATIVES CHENEVERT, ADAMS, AMEDEE, BAYHAM, BERAULT,
BILLINGS, BOYER, BUTLER, CARVER, DICKERSON, EDMONSTON, EGAN,
FISHER, HORTON, LACOMBE, LAFLEUR, MCFARLAND, OWEN, AND
WYBLE

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

