

SUBJECT: Time requirements for registering with the state registry of paternity

COMMITTEE: Juvenile Justice and Family Issues — favorable, without amendment

VOTE: 5 ayes — Dutton, Eiland, Farrar, Gonzalez Toureilles, Hernandez
0 nays
4 absent — Bolton, Farias, Strama, Vaught

WITNESSES: For — (*Registered, but did not testify:* Wendy Burgower, Texas Family Law Foundation)

Against — None

On — Sherry Crawford, Department of State Health Services, Vital Statistics

BACKGROUND: Family Code Sec. 160.402 provides that a man who desires to be notified of an adoption proceeding or termination of parental rights regarding a child that he may have fathered may register with the registry of paternity:

- before the birth of the child; or
- not later than the 31st day after the child's birth.

Sec. 160.415 states that if a man registers with the state registry of paternity later than the 30th day after the date of the birth of the child, the bureau of vital statistics must notify the registrant that the registration was not timely filed.

DIGEST: HB 567 would amend Family Code, sec. 160.415 to provide that if a man registered with the state registry of paternity later than the 31st day, rather than the 30th day, after the date of a child's birth, the bureau of vital statistics would notify him that the registration was not timely.

The bill would take immediate effect if finally passed by a two-thirds record vote of the membership of each house. Otherwise, it would take effect September 1, 2007.

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SUPPORTERS
SAY:

The deadline for a father to timely register with the paternity registry should correspond to the deadline the bureau of vital statistics uses to send a notice of untimely registration to the father. HB 567 simply would align these two deadlines.

OPPONENTS
SAY:

No apparent opposition.