



**House
Legislative
Analysis
Section**

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PATERNITY ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

House Bill 4134

Sponsor: Rep. Jack Horton

House Bill 4140

Sponsor: Rep. Sharon Gire

Committee: Human Services & Children

Complete to 2-11-93

A SUMMARY OF HOUSE BILLS 4134 and 4140 AS INTRODUCED 2-3-93

House Bill 4140 would amend the Public Health Code (MCL 333.21532) to require a hospital to give an unmarried woman giving birth a form that could be completed by her and the child's father to acknowledge paternity; the form would be an affidavit that would be legally admissible in court to prove paternity. The hospital would have to provide information on the purpose and completion of the form, and the rights and responsibilities of the parents. The hospital would provide the completed acknowledgement form to the Department of Public Health (DPH) and to the local probate court. A hospital would be immune from civil and criminal liability for providing the form or information required by the bill.

Upon request from the Department of Social Services (DSS), the DPH would make the affidavit available for the purposes of child support enforcement. The DPH would develop and distribute free of charge to hospitals the affidavit form and the information on the purpose and completion of it and on the rights and responsibilities of the parents. (The DPH already has such an affidavit form, and the DSS has been developing a brochure which contains the additional information.)

The bill would take effect six months after it was enacted.

House Bill 4134 would amend the Public Health Code (MCL 333.2824) to, in cases where a child's mother was unmarried, prohibit a father's name from being entered on a birth certificate unless he and the mother completed and filed an affidavit acknowledging the paternity.

House Bills 4134 and 4140 (2-11-93)