

1 **State of Arkansas**
2 **79th General Assembly**
3 **Regular Session, 1993**

A Bill

HOUSE BILL

4 **By: Representatives Mahony and Northcutt**

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For An Act To Be Entitled

8 "AN ACT TO AMEND ARKANSAS CODE §9-14-208 TO AUTHORIZE THE
9 CHILD SUPPORT ENFORCEMENT UNIT TO ENTER INTO COOPERATIVE
10 AGREEMENTS WITH HOSPITALS FOR PATERNITY ACKNOWLEDGMENT
11 PROGRAMS; TO AMEND TITLE 20, CHAPTER EIGHTEEN (18),
12 SUBCHAPTER FOUR (4) OF THE ARKANSAS CODE TO PROVIDE AN
13 OPPORTUNITY FOR COMPLETION OF AN ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF
14 PATERNITY AT THE TIME OF THE COMPLETION OF BIRTH
15 CERTIFICATE INFORMATION; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES."

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Subtitle

18 "AN ACT TO AMEND THE ARKANSAS CODE TO PROVIDE GREATER
19 OPPORTUNITIES FOR COMPLETION OF ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS OF
20 PATERNITY."

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22 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:

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24 SECTION 1. Arkansas Code §9-14-208 is hereby amended by adding the
25 following new subsection to read as follows:

26 "(f) The manager of the unit and the hospital, birthing center,
27 certified nurse practitioner, or licensed midwife delivering the child shall
28 enter into cooperative agreements to compensate at a rate not to exceed twenty
29 dollars (\$20) for each acknowledgement of paternity forwarded by the hospital,
30 birthing center, certified nurse practitioner, or licensed midwife to the
31 Child Support Enforcement Unit."

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33 SECTION 2. Subchapter 4 of Chapter 18 of Title 20 of the Arkansas Code
34 is hereby amended by adding at the end thereof the following new sections to
35 read as follows:

1 "§20-18-408. Upon the birth of a child to an unmarried woman, the
2 person responsible under §20-18-401 for providing birth registration
3 information shall:

4 (1) Provide an opportunity for the child_s mother and natural father to
5 complete an affidavit acknowledging paternity, to include such information as
6 is required by the court to establish paternity and establish a child support
7 obligation and to be filed with the Division of Vital records; and

8 (2) Provide written information, furnished by the Child Support
9 Enforcement Unit, to the child_s mother and natural father explaining the
10 implications of signing an affidavit of paternity and parental rights and
11 responsibilities; and

12 (3) Provide written information, furnished by the Child Support
13 Enforcement Unit, to the child_s mother regarding the benefits of having her
14 child_s paternity established and the availability of paternity establishment
15 services, including a request for support enforcement services.

16 §20-18-409 (a) The hospital, birthing center, certified nurse
17 practitioner, or licensed midwife shall make available to the Child Support
18 Enforcement Unit completed affidavits of paternity. Such disclosure shall
19 constitute an exception to the general prohibition of §20-18-304.

20 (b) Information obtained by the Child Support Enforcement Unit pursuant
21 to this section may be used in an action or proceeding before any court,
22 administrative tribunal, or other body for the purpose of establishing a child
23 support obligation or collecting the child support obligation."
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25 SECTION 3. All provisions of this act of a general and permanent nature
26 are amendatory to the Arkansas Code of 1987 Annotated and the Arkansas Code
27 Revision Commission shall incorporate the same in the Code.

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29 SECTION 4. If any provision of this act or the application thereof to
30 any person or circumstance is held invalid, such invalidity shall not affect
31 other provisions or applications of the act which can be given effect without
32 the invalid provision or application, and to this end the provisions of this
33 act are declared to be severable.

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35 SECTION 5. All laws and parts of laws in conflict with this act are

1 hereby repealed.