

Public Health Committee JOINT FAVORABLE REPORT

Bill No.: HB-5156

AN ACT IMPLEMENTING THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH'S
RECOMMENDATIONS REGARDING ACCESS TO A COPY OF AN

Title: ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF PATERNITY.

Vote Date: 3/19/2018

Vote Action: Joint Favorable

PH Date: 3/5/2018

File No.:

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SPONSORS OF BILL:

Public Health Committee

REASONS FOR BILL:

HB-5156 allows legal guardians of persons who are subject to an acknowledgment of paternity to obtain a copy of the Acknowledgment of Paternity form.

Currently the law is very restrictive and only gives access to the parents named on the form, the person whose birth is acknowledged but only if they are an adult, certain government entities and attorneys representing the parents or birth person.

RESPONSE FROM ADMINISTRATION/AGENCY:

The Connecticut Department of Public Health (DPH) supports the bill. DPH notes that currently the law is restrictive to only a few eligible parties. There seems to be a legitimate need to add legal guardians to the list of persons allowed to access a copy of the Acknowledgment of Paternity form as it is sometimes needed for legal and administrative purposes.

The Department writes of an incident when they weren't able to provide a copy of the form to a grandparent who was appointed as the guardian of a minor grandchild whose father was deceased. He needed the form in order to apply for survivor Social Security benefits, as the Social Security Administration required it. While the number of requests for the form by legal guardians is small, the Department is supportive of being able to fulfill the need.

NATURE AND SOURCES OF SUPPORT:

None.

NATURE AND SOURCES OF OPPOSITION:

None.

Reported by: Tamera Balfour

Date: 3-22-18