

RÉSUMÉ DIGEST

ACT 304 (HB 535)

2026 Regular Session

Chenevert

Existing law (R.S. 40:46.12(E)) requires a voluntary acknowledgment form executed in accordance with a hospital-based paternity program to be signed by both parents and for the parents' signatures to be authenticated by a person possessing notarial powers.

New law specifies the requirement for the acknowledgment of paternity form and provides that there is no requirement for the presence or signature of two witnesses.

New law provides that any acknowledgment of paternity obtained through a hospital-based paternity program has the same force and effect as an authentic act for purposes of changing or recording the paternity of a child with the state registrar of vital records.

New law does not apply to parents under the age of 18 who must establish paternity as otherwise established by law.

Effective August 1, 2026.

(Amends R.S. 40:46.12(E))