Regular Session, 2013

HOUSE BILL NO. 602

BY REPRESENTATIVE ORTEGO

Prefiled pursuant to Article III, Section 2(A)(4)(b)(i) of the Constitution of Louisiana.

VITAL STATS/BIRTH CERT: Requires La. birth certificate forms to be produced in bilingual (English and La. French) format

1	AN ACT
2	To amend and reenact R.S. 40:34(A), relative to vital records forms; to require that text of
3	the birth certificate form appear in bilingual format; to provide relative to the system
4	of writing employed for certain birth certificate text; and to provide for related
5	matters.
6	Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:
7	Section 1. R.S. 40:34(A) is hereby amended and reenacted to read as follows:
8	§34. Vital records forms
9	A.(1) The certificate forms prescribed by the state registrar shall include, as
10	a minimum, the items listed below in Subsection B of this Section and any others
11	recommended by the national office in charge of gathering vital statistics. Only
12	these forms shall be used in registering, recording, and preserving the vital
13	information required by this Chapter.
14	These $(2)(a)$ The forms provided for in this Section shall be typewritten in
15	black type or written in jet black ink or transferred by electronic means.
16	Additionally each (b) Each certificate of a birth occurring in a licensed
17	hospital shall be typewritten in black type or computer generated.
18	(c) All text of the birth certificate form prescribed by the state registrar shall
19	appear on the form in both the English language and the Louisiana French language

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1	(français de la Louisiane), and the segments of the form which appear in Louisiana
2	French shall employ the proper orthography for such language.
3	(3) Whenever a form is changed, the new form shall be furnished to the
4	person charged with preparing it not less than thirty days prior to the date upon
5	which the form shall be required to be used.
6	(2) (4) The Department of Health and Hospitals shall promulgate rules and
7	regulations in accordance with the Administrative Procedure Act to allow electronic
8	registration in lieu of typewritten or written birth, death, fetal death, marriage, and
9	divorce certificates.
10	* * *
11	Section 2. This Act shall become effective upon signature by the governor or, if not
12	signed by the governor, upon expiration of the time for bills to become law without signature
13	by the governor, as provided by Article III, Section 18 of the Constitution of Louisiana. If
14	vetoed by the governor and subsequently approved by the legislature, this Act shall become
15	effective on the day following such approval.

DIGEST

The digest printed below was prepared by House Legislative Services. It constitutes no part of the legislative instrument. The keyword, one-liner, abstract, and digest do not constitute part of the law or proof or indicia of legislative intent. [R.S. 1:13(B) and 24:177(E)]

Ortego

HB No. 602

Abstract: Requires La. birth certificate forms to be produced in bilingual (English and La. French) format.

<u>Proposed law</u> requires that all text of the La. birth certificate form appear in both English and La. French. Also requires that the segments of the form which appear in La. French employ the proper system of writing for that language.

Effective upon signature of governor or lapse of time for gubernatorial action.

(Amends R.S. 40:34(A))