

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2026 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE
Enrolled - Revised

House Bill 939
Health

(Delegate Rosenberg, *et al.*)

Finance

Certificates of Birth - Filing - Time Period

This bill authorizes a certificate of birth to be filed within 10 days after the birth occurred if a parent of the child notifies the person required to file the certificate of birth on a form provided by the Secretary of Health, as soon as practicable, but not later than 5 days after the birth occurs.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: None. The change is procedural in nature and does not directly affect governmental finances.

Local Effect: None. The change is procedural in nature and does not directly affect local governmental finances.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Current Law: Within five calendar days after a birth occurs in an institution, or en route to the institution, or outside an institution with an attending clinician, the administrative head of the institution or the attending clinician (or their designee) must (1) prepare a birth certificate on a form provided by the Secretary of Health; (2) secure required signatures on the certificate; (3) file the certificate; and (4) if applicable, attach a copy of the order of the court establishing parentage.

The attending physician, physician assistant, nurse practitioner, nurse midwife, or attending clinician must provide the date of birth and medical information required on the certificate within five calendar days after the birth.

Within five calendar days after a birth occurs outside an institution without an attending clinician, the birth must be verified by the Secretary and a certificate of birth must be prepared on the provided form and filed by one of the following, in the indicated order of priority: (1) the attending individual; (2) in the absence of an attending individual, either parent of the child; (3) in the absence or inability of either parent, the individual in charge of the premises where the birth occurred.

When birth occurs on a common carrier within the United States and the child is first removed from the carrier in the State, the birth must be registered in the State, and the place where the child is first removed must be considered the place of birth. When a birth occurs on a common carrier while in international waters, air space, or in a foreign country and the child is first removed from the carrier in the State, the birth must be registered in the State, but the certificate must show the actual place of birth insofar as can be determined. The certificate must be filed within five calendar days after the child is removed from the carrier.

Additional Information

Recent Prior Introductions: Similar legislation has not been introduced within the last three years.

Designated Cross File: None.

Information Source(s): Maryland Association of County Health Officers; Department of Legislative Services

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - February 22, 2026
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