

SAMUEL I. "SANDY" ROSENBERG
Legislative District 41
Baltimore City

Health and Government Operations
Committee

Chair

Health Occupations and
Long-Term Care Subcommittee

House Chair

Joint Committee on Administrative,
Executive, and Legislative Review



THE MARYLAND HOUSE OF DELEGATES
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

Respond to Office Indicated

□ *Annapolis Office*
The Maryland House of Delegates
6 Bladen Street, Room 365
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
410-841-3297 · 301-858-3297
800-492-7122 Ext. 3297
Samuel.Rosenberg@house.state.md.us

□ *District Office*
4811 Liberty Heights Avenue
Baltimore, Maryland 21207
410-664-2646

Testimony of Delegate Samuel I Rosenberg

Before the Health Committee

In Support of

House Bill 939

Certificates of Birth - Filing - Time Period

Chair Bagnall and Members of the Committee:

House bill 939 makes a very limited but important change to current law by extending the time to file a birth certificate from 5 calendar days to 12 calendar days. The bill does not alter the substantive requirements for birth registration, the information that must be reported, or the responsibility of attending clinicians or institutions. It simply provides additional time to ensure accurate and full compliance with existing law.

Currently, births must be registered within 5 days. This is very manageable for hospitals with administrative staff and electronic access to vitals systems. For licensed midwives and other out-of-institution providers, who are often sole practitioners without direct electronic access, the five-day window can be difficult to meet while simultaneously providing essential postpartum care.

The bill also addresses a practical concern for Jewish communities. In Orthodox Jewish tradition, a male child is not formally named until the eighth day following birth. The circumcision itself is part of the covenant between God, Abraham, and the future generations. (See Genesis 17: 9-14.) As a result, families are frequently required to submit a birth certificate without a name and later initiate an amendment. This creates unnecessary administrative burdens for families and for the Maryland Department of Health. By extending the filing period, the State can respect longstanding religious practice while improving administrative efficiency.

House Bill 939 is a straightforward, common-sense adjustment. It supports maternal health providers, respects religious practice, reduces duplicative administrative processes, and maintains the integrity of Maryland's birth registration system.

For these reasons, I respectfully urge a favorable report on HB 939.

February 23rd, 2026