

# HOUSE BILL 939

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By: **Delegate Rosenberg**

Introduced and read first time: February 5, 2026

Assigned to: Health

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## A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Certificates of Birth – Filing – Time Period**

3 FOR the purpose of altering the period of time within which a certificate of birth is to be  
4 completed and filed with the Maryland Department of Health following a birth; and  
5 generally relating to certificates of birth.

6 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,  
7 Article – Health – General  
8 Section 4–208(b)(1) and (2), (c)(1), and (d)  
9 Annotated Code of Maryland  
10 (2023 Replacement Volume and 2025 Supplement)

11 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND,  
12 That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

13 **Article – Health – General**

14 4–208.

15 (b) (1) Within [5] 12 calendar days after a birth occurs in an institution, or en  
16 route to the institution, or outside an institution with an attending clinician, the  
17 administrative head of the institution or a designee of the administrative head, or the  
18 attending clinician or a designee of the attending clinician, shall:

19 (i) Prepare, on the form that the Secretary provides, a certificate of  
20 birth;

21 (ii) Secure each signature that is required on the certificate;

22 (iii) File the certificate; and

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EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



(iv) If applicable, attach a copy of the order of the court establishing parentage.

(2) The attending physician, physician assistant, nurse practitioner, nurse midwife, or attending clinician shall provide the date of birth and medical information that are required on the certificate within **[5] 12** calendar days after the birth.

(c) (1) Within **[5] 12** calendar days after a birth occurs outside an institution without an attending clinician, the birth shall be verified by the Secretary and a certificate of birth shall be prepared, on the form that the Secretary provides, and filed by one of the following, in the indicated order of priority:

(i) The attending individual.

(ii) In the absence of an attending individual, either parent of the child.

(iii) In the absence or inability of either parent, the individual in charge of the premises where the birth occurred.

(d) (1) When a birth occurs on a common carrier within the United States and the child is first removed from the carrier in this State, the birth shall be registered in this State, and the place where the child is first removed shall be considered the place of birth.

(2) 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 this State, the birth shall be registered in this State but the certificate shall show the actual place of birth insofar as can be determined.

(3) The certificate shall be filed within **[5] 12** calendar days after the child is removed from the carrier.

SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect October 1, 2026.