

HOUSE BILL 939

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By: ~~Delegate Rosenberg~~ Delegates Rosenberg, Alston, Bagnall, Cullison, Guzzone, Hill, Hutchinson, S. Johnson, Kaufman, Kipke, Lopez, Martinez, M. Morgan, Reilly, Ross, Szeliga, Taveras, White Holland, and Woorman

Introduced and read first time: February 5, 2026

Assigned to: Health

Committee Report: Favorable with amendments

House action: Adopted

Read second time: March 6, 2026

CHAPTER _____

1 AN ACT concerning

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

3 FOR the purpose of altering, under certain circumstances, the period of time within which
4 a certificate of birth is to be completed and filed with the Maryland Department of
5 Health following a birth; and 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 BY adding to
12 Article – Health – General
13 Section 4–208(g)
14 Annotated Code of Maryland
15 (2023 Replacement Volume and 2025 Supplement)

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

18 **Article – Health – General**

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.

Underlining indicates amendments to bill.

~~Strike out~~ indicates matter stricken from the bill by amendment or deleted from the law by amendment.



1 4-208.

2 (b) (1) ~~Within~~ **EXCEPT AS PROVIDED IN SUBSECTION (G) OF THIS**
3 **SECTION, WITHIN [5] 12** calendar days after a birth occurs in an institution, or en route
4 to the institution, or outside an institution with an attending clinician, the administrative
5 head of the institution or a designee of the administrative head, or the attending clinician
6 or a designee of the attending clinician, shall:

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

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

10 (iii) File the certificate; and

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

13 (2) ~~The~~ **EXCEPT AS PROVIDED IN SUBSECTION (G) OF THIS SECTION,**
14 **THE** attending physician, physician assistant, nurse practitioner, nurse midwife, or
15 attending clinician shall provide the date of birth and medical information that are required
16 on the certificate within ~~[5] 12~~ calendar days after the birth.

17 (c) (1) ~~Within~~ **EXCEPT AS PROVIDED IN SUBSECTION (G) OF THIS**
18 **SECTION, WITHIN [5] 12** calendar days after a birth occurs outside an institution without
19 an attending clinician, the birth shall be verified by the Secretary and a certificate of birth
20 shall be prepared, on the form that the Secretary provides, and filed by one of the following,
21 in the indicated order of priority:

22 (i) The attending individual.

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

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

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

30 (2) When a birth occurs on a common carrier while in international waters,
31 air space, or in a foreign country and the child is first removed from the carrier in this
32 State, the birth shall be registered in this State but the certificate shall show the actual
33 place of birth insofar as can be determined.

1 (3) ~~The~~ EXCEPT AS PROVIDED IN SUBSECTION (G) OF THIS SECTION,
2 THE certificate shall be filed within ~~5~~ ~~12~~ calendar days after the child is removed from
3 the carrier.

4 (G) A CERTIFICATE OF BIRTH MAY BE FILED WITHIN 10 DAYS AFTER THE
5 BIRTH OCCURRED IF A PARENT OF THE CHILD NOTIFIES THE DIVISION OF VITAL
6 RECORDS IN A MANNER REQUIRED BY THE SECRETARY AS SOON AS PRACTICABLE
7 AFTER BIRTH, BUT NOT LATER THAN 5 DAYS AFTER THE BIRTH OCCURS.

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

Approved:

Governor.

Speaker of the House of Delegates.

President of the Senate.