STATE OF NEW YORK

9025

2025-2026 Regular Sessions

IN ASSEMBLY

September 5, 2025

Introduced by M. of A. BLUMENCRANZ -- read once and referred to the Committee on Judiciary

AN ACT to amend the family court act and the public health law, in relation to ensuring the timely verification, transmission, and processing of amended birth certificates for children born through surrogacy or adoption, and to establish safeguards against denial of healthcare coverage pending the issuance of a social security number

The People of the State of New York, represented in Senate and Assembly, do enact as follows:

Section 1. Short title. This act shall be known and may be cited as "Madison's Law".

§ 2. Legislative intent. The legislature hereby finds and declares that children born through surrogacy or adoption face unnecessary delays in obtaining amended birth certificates and subsequent social security numbers and/or federal identification due to bureaucratic inefficiencies. These delays jeopardize access to healthcare, prevent travel, and impose undue hardship on families. It is the policy of the state of New York to ensure that no child is left without identity documentation due to administrative backlogs.

§ 3. The family court act is amended by adding a new section 581-208 to read as follows:

§ 581-208. Timely verification and transmission of amended birth certificates. 1. The department of health shall verify and transmit amended birth certificates issued pursuant to this article for children born through surrogacy or adoption to relevant state and federal agencies, including but not limited to the social security administration and the state department of financial services, within fifteen days of issuance of any request for verification.

2. Amended birth certificates linked to surrogacy or adoption shall receive priority handling, and the department of health shall establish procedures to expedite such verification.

EXPLANATION--Matter in *italics* (underscored) is new; matter in brackets [-] is old law to be omitted.

LBD13647-01-5

3. No insurer authorized to do business in this state shall commence collection proceedings against a parent or guardian for medical expenses incurred on behalf of a newborn pending the issuance of a social security number, provided that proof of birth or an amended birth certificate has been submitted.

4. The commissioner of health shall promulgate such rules and regulations as may be necessary to implement the provisions of this section.

§ 4. Section 2599-cc of the public health law is amended by adding two new subdivisions 3 and 4 to read as follows:

3. The commissioner shall establish a special liaison unit within the department to assist families of children born through surrogacy or adoption in navigating amended birth certificate processing and related documentation requirements. Such unit shall:

(a) ensure that amended birth certificates are transmitted to relevant agencies within the timeframes set forth in section 581-208 of the family court act;

(b) provide families with real-time updates regarding the status of amended birth certificate processing; and

(c) coordinate directly with state and federal agencies, including the social security administration and the state department of financial services, to expedite verification and prevent undue delays.

4. The commissioner shall further develop and maintain an electronic verification system that enables relevant state and federal agencies, including but not limited to the social security administration and the department of health, to access and confirm amended birth certificates securely and efficiently. Such system shall be designed to eliminate paper-based delays and ensure timely interagency communication.

§ 5. This act shall take effect on the one hundred twentieth day after it shall have become a law. Effective immediately, the addition, amendment and/or repeal of any rule or regulation necessary for the timely implementation of this act on its effective date are authorized to be made and completed by the commissioner of health.