

1-1 By: Cook (Senate Sponsor - Zaffirini) H.B. No. 1973  
1-2 (In the Senate - Received from the House May 5, 2025;  
1-3 May 5, 2025, read first time and referred to Committee on  
1-4 Jurisprudence; May 23, 2025, reported adversely, with favorable  
1-5 Committee Substitute by the following vote: Yeas 4, Nays 0;  
1-6 May 23, 2025, sent to printer.)

1-7 COMMITTEE VOTE

	Yea	Nay	Absent	PNV
1-8				
1-9	X			
1-10	X			
1-11			X	
1-12	X			
1-13	X			

1-14 COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE FOR H.B. No. 1973 By: Johnson

1-15 A BILL TO BE ENTITLED  
1-16 AN ACT

1-17 relating to proof of the identity of a child's parents in a suit  
1-18 affecting the parent-child relationship.

1-19 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

1-20 SECTION 1. Section 102.008, Family Code, is amended by  
1-21 adding Subsection (c-1) and amending Subsection (d) to read as  
1-22 follows:

1-23 (c-1) The petitioner shall additionally submit to the court  
1-24 a certified copy of the child's birth certificate if available to  
1-25 the petitioner. If a certified copy of the child's birth  
1-26 certificate is not available to the petitioner, the court at any  
1-27 time during the pendency of the suit may request another party to  
1-28 whom a certified copy of the child's birth certificate is available  
1-29 to submit a copy to the court. A certified copy of the child's birth  
1-30 certificate submitted under this subsection must be submitted for  
1-31 filing under seal and filed separately from any other document. If  
1-32 a certified copy of the child's birth certificate is not available  
1-33 to any party or if the copy does not name both of the child's  
1-34 parents, the court may request from any party at any time during the  
1-35 pendency of the suit alternative proof of the identity of the  
1-36 child's parents. The court shall seal or otherwise keep  
1-37 confidential any certificate or other proof submitted under this  
1-38 subsection, as applicable.

1-39 (d) Notwithstanding any other provision of this section, if  
1-40 the Title IV-D agency files a petition in a suit affecting the  
1-41 parent-child relationship, the agency is not required to:

1-42 (1) include in the petition the statement described by  
1-43 Subsection (b)(11); ~~or~~

1-44 (2) attach copies of the documentation described by  
1-45 Subsection (c); or

1-46 (3) submit to the court a copy of a child's birth  
1-47 certificate or other proof of the identity of the child's parents as  
1-48 described by Subsection (c-1).

1-49 SECTION 2. The change in law made by this Act applies to a  
1-50 suit affecting the parent-child relationship that is filed on or  
1-51 after the effective date of this Act. A suit affecting the  
1-52 parent-child relationship filed before the effective date of this  
1-53 Act is governed by the law in effect on the date the suit was filed,  
1-54 and the former law is continued in effect for that purpose.

1-55 SECTION 3. This Act takes effect September 1, 2025.

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