

Committee on Children JOINT FAVORABLE REPORT

Bill No: HB-5268 / [Bill Status](#) / [Public Hearing Testimony](#)

AN ACT AUTHORIZING THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH TO
RELEASE INFORMATION RELATING TO AN ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF

Title: PARENTAGE TO THE DEPARTMENT OF CHILDREN AND FAMILIES.

Vote Date: 3/3/2026

Vote Action: Joint Favorable

PH Date: 2/24/2026

File No.:

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SPONSORS OF BILL:

The Committee on Children

REASONS FOR BILL:

This bill authorizes the Department of Public Health (DPH) to provide data and documentation regarding parentage, such as birth certificates, to the Department of Children and Families (DCF). Currently, DPH holds that information and is limited in how and when they may release it to other agencies. Through this legislation, DPH can provide DCF with the proper documentation needed for child welfare purposes. Accessing services such as healthcare and Social Security require this type of documentation, and this legislation seeks to facilitate the process of acquiring those documents for children in the child welfare system.

SUBSTITUTE LANGUAGE (IF APPLICABLE):

There is no substitute language.

RESPONSE FROM ADMINISTRATION/AGENCY:

The Office of Chief Public Defender, Assistant Public Defender Chris Oakley: The Office of the Public Defender supports H.B. 5268, which would allow the Department of Public Health to release parentage information directly to DCF to expedite the establishment of parentage in child protection cases. The agency argues that eliminating delays in obtaining birth certificates or acknowledgments of parentage will promote timely permanency for children and ensure parents and relatives can fully participate in court proceedings regarding child welfare.

NATURE AND SOURCES OF SUPPORT:

None expressed.

NATURE AND SOURCES OF OPPOSITION:

None expressed.

Reported by: Mia Giglietti and Zachary Robinson Date: 3/9/2026