

HB18 INTRODUCED



1 HB18
2 SL3S155-1
3 By Representative Sellers
4 RFD: Judiciary
5 First Read: 13-Jan-26
6 PFD: 25-Jun-25



4 SYNOPSIS:

5 Under existing law, after the birth of a child
6 to an unmarried woman in a hospital, an alleged father
7 may execute a voluntary acknowledgment of paternity
8 with consent of the mother. An acknowledgment of
9 paternity constitutes a legal finding of paternity and
10 confers all rights and duties of a parent on the
11 acknowledged father.

12 This bill would provide that, in any proceeding
13 relating to child custody, visitation rights, or child
14 support, a valid voluntary acknowledgment of paternity
15 creates certain rebuttable presumptions in favor of
16 joint custody and shared parenting time.

17 This bill would create a rebuttable presumption
18 in those proceedings that a parent may not remove the
19 child from the state without the permission of the
20 other parent or the court.

21 This bill would also provide exceptions for
22 cases involving domestic or family violence.

23
24
25 A BILL
26 TO BE ENTITLED
27 AN ACT
28



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Relating to child custody; to amend Section 26-17-305, Code of Alabama 1975; to create certain rebuttable presumptions relating to the best interest of a child in proceedings where a valid acknowledgment of paternity exists; and to provide exceptions.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA:

Section 1. This act shall be known and may be cited as The Good Dad Act.

Section 2. Section 26-17-305, Code of Alabama 1975, is amended to read as follows:

"§26-17-305

(a) Except as otherwise provided in Sections 26-17-307 and 26-17-308, a valid acknowledgment of paternity filed with the Alabama Office of Vital Statistics ~~shall be considered~~ is a legal finding of paternity of a child and confers upon the acknowledged father all of the rights and duties of a parent.

(b) An acknowledgment of paternity ~~shall be~~ is a legally sufficient basis for establishing an obligation for child support and for the expenses of the mother's pregnancy and confinement.

(c) (1) Except as provided in Section 30-3-131, in any proceeding related to child custody, visitation rights, or child support, an acknowledgment of paternity creates a presumption, rebuttable by a preponderance of evidence, that each of the following are in the best interest of the child:

a. Joint custody.

b. That if a parent lives within 40 miles of his or her child, both parents are entitled to equal rights and



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57 responsibilities for major decisions concerning the child and
58 equally shared joint physical custody.

59 c. That neither parent may remove the child from the
60 state of residence without consent of the other parent or
61 permission from the court.

62 (2) In determining whether the presumptions provided in
63 subdivision (1) are in the best interest of the child, the
64 court shall consider the same factors considered in awarding
65 any other custody arrangement and the factors provided in
66 Section 30-3-152.

67 (3) For the purposes of this subsection, the term
68 "parent" refers to an acknowledged father and a mother."

69 Section 3. This act shall become effective on October
70 1, 2026.