

HB 668 -- Safe Place for Newborns Act of 2002

Sponsor: Torpey

Currently, under the Safe Place for Newborns Act of 2002, a parent may voluntarily relinquish a newborn up to five days after the child's birth by safely delivering physical custody of the baby to specified persons without being prosecuted for child abandonment. This bill changes that time period to up to 45 days after birth.

No parent voluntarily relinquishing a child under these provisions can be required to provide or reveal any identifying information about the child or parent. No officer, employee, or agent of this state or any political subdivision can attempt to locate or determine the identity of the parent or disclose identifying information except to specified individuals and courts.

If either parent of a relinquished child fails to take steps to establish parentage within the 30 days after public notice or specific notice that the child has been relinquished, either parent may have all of his or her rights terminated with respect to the child. Currently, this provision applies only to the nonrelinquishing parent.