

HB 1991 -- CHILD SUPPORT FOR UNBORN CHILDREN

SPONSOR: Coleman (97)

This bill specifies that a putative father may be obligated to make child support payments from the time of conception if the mother petitions the court within one year of the child's birth.

If paternity is contested, then paternity must be established before there will be an obligation. If paternity is uncontested, then the putative father may be obligated to make child support payments for an unborn child if the mother petitions the court for child support from the time the mother's pregnancy is confirmed by a physician until one year from the child's birth. Child support obligations may be retroactively collected or awarded.

The payment amount for such obligations shall be determined by a court, in consultation with the mother, taking into account the best interests of the child. Nothing in this section shall prohibit any party from petitioning the court for child support under Section 452.340, RSMo if applicable.

This bill is similar to HB 1621 (2022).