

SENATE WOMEN'S ISSUES, CHILDREN AND FAMILY
SERVICES COMMITTEE

STATEMENT TO

SENATE, No. 56

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

DATED: FEBRUARY 23, 1998

The Senate Women's Issues, Children and Family Services Committee favorably reports Senate Bill No. 56.

The purpose of this bill is to secure permanence in adoption placements by requiring certain unmarried parents to acknowledge paternity of a child in order to be entitled to notice of adoption. Because the law provides that those who are entitled to notice may object to an adoption, objections should occur at an early point in the child's life. If there is an objection, the bill provides that the standard to be used in resolving the dispute shall be the best interest of the child, which requires a parent to affirmatively assume the role of parent. In addition, to provide notice to the public of the new requirement to acknowledge paternity, the bill requires publicizing the requirement throughout the State.

This bill was prefiled for introduction in the 1998-1999 session pending technical review. As reported, the bill includes the changes required by technical review which has been performed.