

ASSEMBLY SENIOR ISSUES AND COMMUNITY SERVICES
COMMITTEE

STATEMENT TO

SENATE, No. 56

with committee amendments

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

DATED: MARCH 2, 1998

The Assembly Senior Issues and Community Services Committee favorably reports Senate Bill No. 56.

As amended by committee, 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.

The committee amended section 5 of the bill to prohibit the establishment and enforcement of child support matters when a legal action is pending in the case, such as adoption, or State law prohibits such intervention. Additionally, a technical change was made in the title of the bill.

This bill is identical to Assembly Bill No. 1637 Aca (Bateman/Biondi) which was amended and released by this committee on this date.