

Bill Summary
1st Session of the 59th Legislature

Bill No.:	SB 656
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Author:	Sen. Bullard
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Bill Analysis

SB 656 creates the Paternal Responsibility Act. The measure provides that the father or second parent of an unborn child shall be liable to provide financial coverage for medically necessary and appropriate prenatal care received by the mother of the child during her pregnancy unless a prior binding agreement was made to the contrary. Such persons shall be liable for half of the out-of-pocket expenses paid by the mother. The measure authorizes the mother of the unborn child to bring an action to establish or enforce the obligation of support. Establishment of paternity may be brought forward in the appropriate district court or through the Department of Human Services. The district attorney and Department of Human Services may also bring action to establish paternity. Persons who willfully fail to provide child support shall be subject to a term of imprisonment not to exceed 6 months or 1 year if the support remains unpaid for a period exceeding 1 year or amount exceeding \$5,000.00. The father or second parent shall not be liable for payment of services to terminate the pregnancy.

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