

COMMITTEE ON HEALTH, HOSPITALS AND
HUMAN SERVICES

12/7/2023-AMENDED AND REPORTED OUT TO THE FLOOR

12/6/2023-AMENDED AND REPORTED OUT TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES AND JUDICIARY

BILL NO. 35-0173

Thirty-Fifth Legislature of the Virgin Islands

October 18, 2023

An Act amending title 5 Virgin Islands Code, chapter 201, by adding a subchapter V enacting the Safe Haven Newborn Protection Act to provide a mechanism for a newborn infant to be relinquished to a safe environment, for the parents of the newborn infant to remain anonymous if they choose and avoid civil or criminal liability for the act of relinquishing the newborn infant

PROPOSED BY: Senator Angel L. Bolques, Jr. and Marvin A. Blyden

1 *Be it enacted by the Legislature of the Virgin Islands:*

2 **SECTION 1.** This act may be cited as the Safe Haven Newborn Protection Act.

3 **SECTION 2.** Title 5 Virgin Islands Code, chapter 201, is amended by adding a
4 subchapter V that reads as follows:

5 **“Subchapter V. Safe Haven Newborn Protection Act**

6 **§ 2560. Purpose: public policy**

7 (a) The Virgin Islands recognizes that abandonment can cause injury and death to
8 newborn infants, giving rise to potential civil or criminal liability to parents recognize that they
9 are unable to safely parent. This Act is intended to provide a mechanism for a newborn infant
10 to be relinquished, utilizing Virgin Islands Safe Haven Law, to a safe environment and for the

1 parents of the unharmed newborn infant to remain anonymous if they choose and to avoid civil
2 or criminal liability for the act of relinquishing the newborn infant. Relinquishing a newborn
3 infant using the procedures in this subchapter can reduce the chance of injury to a newborn
4 infant and provide a safer alternative.

5 (b) The Department of Human Services shall implement a public information campaign
6 on Virgin Islands Safe Haven Law to encourage parents to safely relinquish a newborn infant
7 under the procedures in this subchapter, or to choose a traditional adoption plan, instead of
8 abandoning a newborn infant if a traditional adoption plan is not practicable. This campaign
9 must also include guidance, support, and resources to assist individuals who are considering
10 relinquishing a newborn infant to be able to gain the ability to parent a newborn infant
11 themselves without placing the newborn infant in harm's way.

12 **§ 2561. Definitions**

13 (a) As used in this subchapter, unless it is otherwise provided or the context requires a
14 different construction, application, or meaning:

15 (1) "Abuse" means any physical or mental injury inflicted on a child, other than
16 by accidental means, by those responsible for the care and maintenance of the child,
17 which injury causes or creates a substantial risk of death, serious or protracted
18 disfigurement, protracted impairment of physical or emotional health or loss or protracted
19 impairment of the function of any bodily organ. "Abuse" includes the sexual abuse of a
20 child, as defined by law, or the sexual exploitation, including the prostituting of a child
21 and the photographing or other depiction of a child for pornographic purposes, or a
22 persistent course of sexual conduct that causes a child's health or welfare to be harmed or
23 threatened.

24 (2) "Department" means the Virgin Islands Department of Human Services.

1 (3) "Emergency medical facility" means a freestanding emergency/urgent care
2 center or trauma center that is staffed and available 24 hours a day/7 days per week.

3 (4) "Emergency medical professional" includes licensed physicians, and any
4 emergency medical technicians, emergency medical technician-intermediate, advanced
5 emergency medical technicians, paramedics, trauma nurse specialists, nurse practitioners,
6 nurses (RN and LPN), and physician assistants or any medical professional engaged in
7 providing emergency medical services.

8 (5) "Father" means, for purpose of this chapter only, a male parent of a child
9 when:

10 (A) he is married to a mother of the child when the child was conceived or
11 when the child was born, unless a court of competent jurisdiction has, through court
12 order, ruled to the contrary; or

13 (B) it has been so determined by a court of competent jurisdiction; or

14 (C) he has been given an order of adoption of the child by a court of
15 competent jurisdiction; or

16 (D) Paternity has otherwise been established pursuant to Title 16, chapter
17 11 of this Code; or

18 (E) he otherwise makes a formal or unequivocal acknowledgment;

19 (F) but does not mean a man whose parental rights have been terminated
20 by a court of competent jurisdiction.

21 (6) "Fire station" means an office or headquarters located within the Virgin
22 Islands Territory that provides fire and emergency medical services to the territory.

23 (7) "Hospital" means a place devoted primarily to the maintenance and operation
24 of facilities for the diagnosis, treatment or care of inpatients by or under the supervision
25 of a physician.

1 (8) “Mother” means a female parent of a child when she is the biological parent
2 of the child; or has been given an order of adoption of the child by a court of competent
3 jurisdiction, or she was the intended parent in the case of a child born by surrogacy; but
4 does not mean a woman whose parental rights have been terminated by a court of
5 competent jurisdiction.

6 (9) “Neglect” means the abandonment of a child by his or her parent, guardian,
7 or legal custodian or the failure to provide adequate food, clothing, shelter, education as
8 required by law, or medical care though financially able to do so, proper parental
9 supervision, care and control, or other action as necessary for a child’s physical, mental,
10 moral, or emotional health.

11 (10) "Newborn Infant" means a child who a licensed physician reasonably believes
12 is 60 days old or less at the time the child is initially relinquished to a hospital, police
13 station, fire station, or emergency medical facility, who is not an abused or neglected
14 child.

15 (11) “Non-Relinquishing Parent” means the parent of a relinquished newborn
16 infant who did not bring the infant or cause the newborn infant to be brought to the Safe
17 Haven Provider.

18 (12) “Parent” means the father or mother of a child and includes any adoptive
19 parent. It does not include a person whose parental rights with respect to the child have
20 been terminated by a court of competent jurisdiction.

21 (13) "Police station" means an office or headquarters of the Virgin Islands Police
22 Department located within the Virgin Islands Territory.

23 (14) “Putative Father” means a man whose legal relationship to a child has not
24 been established but claims to be the father or who is alleged to be the father of a child
25 who is born to a woman to whom he is not married at the time of the child’s birth.

1 (15) "Relinquish" means to bring, or direct another party to bring, a newborn
2 infant, as defined in this subchapter, to a staff member of a Safe Haven Provider and to
3 leave the newborn infant with personnel of the facility. This includes calling 9-1-1 and
4 contacting emergency medical services to respond to the location of the parent requesting
5 to relinquish the newborn infant and relinquishing the newborn infant to emergency
6 medical personnel. The newborn infant is relinquished in accordance with this subchapter
7 if the person giving the newborn infant to the Safe Haven Provider does not express an
8 intent to return for the newborn infant or states that he or she will not return for the
9 newborn infant. In the case of a mother who gives birth to a newborn infant in a hospital,
10 the mother's act of leaving that newborn infant at the hospital (i) without expressing an
11 intent to return for the newborn infant or (ii) stating that she will not return for the
12 newborn infant is a "relinquishment" under this Act.

13 (16) "Relinquishing Parent" means the parent who brings, or otherwise causes the
14 newborn infant to be brought, to the Safe Haven Provider or calls 9-1-1 and relinquishes
15 the infant.

16 (17) "Safe Haven Law" has the same meaning as Baby Moses law, Daniels Law,
17 Safe Surrender Law and is a statute that decriminalizes the relinquishment of unharmed
18 newborn infants with statutorily designated entities so that the child becomes a ward of
19 the state.

20 (18) "Safe Haven Provider" means a hospital, fire station, emergency medical
21 facility, or police station.

22 (19) "Temporary physical custody" means the temporary placement of a newborn
23 infant with a Safe Haven Provider, hospital, or other medical facility out of the custody
24 of the newborn infant's parent.

1 (b) The terms “infant”, and “newborn” are used interchangeably throughout this
2 chapter and carry the same definition as “newborn infant”, indicated above.

3 **§ 2562. Presumptions**

4 (a) There is a presumption that a person relinquishing a newborn infant, or otherwise
5 causing the newborn infant to be relinquished, in accordance with this subchapter, is the
6 newborn infant's biological parent and either without expressing an intent to return for the
7 newborn infant or expressing an intent not to return for the newborn infant, did intend to
8 relinquish the newborn infant to a Safe Haven Provider, to treat, care for, and provide for the
9 newborn infant in accordance with this subchapter.

10 (b) There is a presumption that by relinquishing a newborn infant in accordance with
11 this subchapter, the newborn infant's relinquishing parent consents to the termination of his or
12 her parental rights with respect to the newborn infant.

13 (c) Both the relinquishing and non-relinquishing parent of a relinquished newborn
14 infant may rebut the presumption set forth in subsection (a) or (b) at any time before the
15 termination of the parent's parental rights.

16 **§ 2563. Safe Haven Provider requirements**

17 (a) Every fire station/EMS, and emergency medical facility shall accept and provide
18 all necessary emergency services and care to a relinquished newborn infant or shall obtain
19 emergency medical services by calling for EMS in accordance with this subchapter. After the
20 relinquishment of a newborn infant to a fire station/EMS, the fire station shall arrange for the
21 transportation of the newborn infant to the nearest hospital as soon as transportation can be
22 arranged.

23 (b) Every police station shall accept a relinquished newborn infant, in accordance with
24 this subchapter. After the relinquishment of a newborn infant to a police station, the police

1 station shall arrange for the transportation of the newborn infant to the nearest hospital as soon
2 as transportation can be arranged.

3 (c) Every hospital shall accept and provide all necessary emergency services and care
4 to a relinquished newborn infant, in accordance with this subchapter. The hospital shall
5 examine a relinquished newborn infant and perform tests that, based on reasonable medical
6 judgment, are appropriate for evaluating whether the relinquished newborn infant was abused
7 or neglected.

8 (1) The act of relinquishing a newborn infant serves as implied consent for the
9 hospital and its medical personnel and physicians on staff to treat and provide care for
10 the newborn infant.

11 (2) For any day that a hospital has custody of a newborn infant relinquished in
12 accordance with this subchapter, the Department shall pay the hospital the current
13 Medicaid general acute care daily inpatient rate.

14 (3) The hospital is deemed to have temporary physical custody of a relinquished
15 newborn infant until the newborn is discharged to the custody of the Virgin Islands
16 Department of Human Services.

17 (d) If either the relinquishing or non-relinquishing parent of a newborn infant returns
18 to reclaim the child after relinquishing the infant to a Safe Haven Provider, staff shall inform
19 the parent to contact the Virgin Islands Department of Human Services. A Safe Haven Provider
20 may not in any circumstance give the infant back to the relinquishing or non-relinquishing
21 parent.

22 § 2564. Signs

23 Every Safe Haven Provider that is required to accept a relinquished newborn infant under
24 this chapter must post a sign in a conspicuous place on the exterior of the building, informing
25 persons that a newborn infant may be relinquished at the facility in accordance with this

1 subchapter. The Department shall prescribe specifications for the signs and for their placement
2 that will ensure territory-wide uniformity.

3 **§ 2565. Procedures for temporary physical custody of relinquished newborn infants**

4 (a) The Safe Haven Provider shall take temporary physical custody of a child, without a
5 court order, if the child is personally delivered to a Safe Haven Provider, if:

6 (1) the child is no more than 60 days of age; and

7 (2) the parent delivers, or causes the infant to be delivered to the safe haven
8 provider; and

9 (3) the parent does not express an intent to return for the child; and

10 (4) there is no evidence of injury or abuse of the newborn infant.

11 (b) If a Safe Haven Provider takes temporary physical custody of a child pursuant to
12 subsection (a) of this section, the Safe Haven Provider:

13 (1) shall perform any act necessary, in accordance with generally accepted
14 standards of professional practice, to protect, preserve, or aid the physical health and
15 safety of the child during the temporary physical custody including, but not limited to,
16 delivering the child to a hospital for care or treatment; and

17 (2) may not inquire as to the identity of the parent. If the identity of a parent is
18 known to the Safe Haven Provider, the Safe Haven Provider shall keep all information
19 confidential, in accordance with the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act
20 (HIPAA), and the confidentiality requirements under title 19 of the Virgin Islands Code.
21 The parent leaving the newborn infant shall not be required to provide any information
22 to the Safe Haven Provider, but may voluntarily provide information including, but not
23 limited to, medical history of the parents or the newborn infant.

24 (c) A Safe Haven Provider with responsibility for performing duties under this
25 section, and any employee, doctor, or other personnel working with the Safe Haven Provider,

1 are immune from any civil or criminal liability that otherwise might result from their actions,
2 if they are acting in good faith and within their professional scope in receiving a child and
3 performing duties under this section.

4 (d) A parent may leave a newborn infant with a Safe Haven Provider in this territory
5 without being subjected to prosecution for abandonment or neglect pursuant to the provisions
6 of title 14, Virgin Islands Code, section 504, if the newborn infant is no more than 60 days of
7 age when the newborn infant is left with the Safe Haven Provider, as determined within a
8 reasonable degree of medical certainty, and there is no evidence of injury or abuse of the
9 newborn infant.

10 **§ 2566. Immunity for relinquishing parent**

11 (a) The act of relinquishing a newborn infant to staff at a Safe Haven Provider, in
12 accordance with this Act does not, by itself, constitute a basis for a finding of abuse, neglect,
13 or abandonment of the newborn pursuant to the laws of this Territory.

14 (b) If there is suspected child abuse or neglect that is not based solely on the newborn
15 infant's relinquishment at a Safe Haven Provider, staff who are mandated reporters shall report
16 the abuse or neglect.

17 (c) Neither a child protective investigation nor a criminal investigation may be initiated
18 solely because a newborn infant is relinquished pursuant to this subchapter.

19 (d) A Safe Haven Provider, and any personnel of a Safe Haven Provider, are immune
20 from criminal or civil liability for acting in good faith in accordance with this subchapter.
21 Nothing in this subchapter limits liability for negligence for care and medical treatment.

22 **§ 2567. Anonymity**

23 If there is no evidence of abuse or neglect of a relinquished newborn infant, the
24 relinquishing parent has the right to remain anonymous and to leave the Safe Haven Provider
25 at any time and not be pursued or followed. Before the relinquishing person leaves the Safe

1 Haven Provider, the Safe Haven Provider personnel shall verbally inform the relinquishing
2 person that by relinquishing the newborn infant anonymously the relinquishing person will
3 have to petition the court if preventing the termination of parental rights and regaining custody
4 of the newborn infant is desired. The Safe Haven Provider shall offer the relinquishing parent
5 an information packet containing facts about custody and parental rights.

6 **§ 2568. Information for relinquishing parent; public disclosure prohibited**

7 (a) A Safe Haven Provider that receives a newborn infant relinquished in accordance
8 with this subchapter shall offer an information packet to the relinquishing person and, if
9 possible, shall clearly inform the relinquishing person that acceptance of the information is
10 completely voluntary. The information packet must include the following:

11 (1) Written notice of the following:

12 (A) No sooner than 60 days following the date of the initial relinquishment
13 of the newborn infant to a Safe Haven Provider, the Department will commence
14 proceedings for the termination of parental rights and placement of the newborn
15 infant for adoption; and

16 (B) Failure of a parent of the newborn infant to contact the Department and
17 petition for the return of custody of the newborn infant before termination of
18 parental rights bars any future action asserting legal rights with respect to the
19 newborn infant;

20 (2) A resource list of providers of counseling services including grief counseling,
21 pregnancy counseling, and counseling regarding adoption and other available options for
22 placement of the newborn infant;

23 (3) Upon request of the relinquishing parent, the Department shall provide the
24 contact information for any adoption registry and medical information exchange
25 maintained within the territory;

1 (4) A brochure with a self-mailer attached that describes the Safe Haven
2 Newborn Protect Act and the rights of birth parents, including an optional section for the
3 parent to complete and mail to the Department, that shall ask for basic anonymous
4 background information about the relinquished child. This brochure must be maintained
5 by the Department on its website; and

6 (5) A brochure describing postpartum health information for the mother.

7 (b) Emergency medical professionals, employees, or other persons engaged in the
8 administration or operation of a Safe Haven Provider, or the Department where a newborn
9 infant has been relinquished or transferred under this subchapter are prohibited from publicly
10 disclosing any information concerning the relinquishment of the newborn infant and the
11 individuals involved, except as otherwise provided by law.

12 **§ 2569. Hospital reporting requirements**

13 (a) Not later than 12 hours after accepting an infant from a relinquishing person or
14 from staff at a fire station, emergency medical facility, or police station, in accordance with this
15 subchapter, a hospital shall report the relinquishment to the Department for the purpose of
16 transferring physical custody of the infant from the hospital to the Department.

17 (b) If a relinquished child is not a newborn infant as defined in section 2561(a)(10), the
18 hospital shall proceed as if the child is an abused or neglected child.

19 **§ 2570. Department's duties and procedures**

20 (a) Once a hospital has made a report to the Department under section 2569(a) of this
21 subchapter, the Department shall arrange to accept physical custody of the relinquished
22 newborn infant and, not later than 48 hours of taking a newborn infant into custody, excluding
23 weekends and holidays, shall seek a court order for emergency temporary custody of the infant
24 upon its acceptance of the infant and file a petition with the court stating the specific
25 circumstances justifying the taking of temporary custody and the specific measures

1 implemented to safeguard the physical and emotional well-being of the newborn infant. If a
2 hospital determines that a relinquished infant needs medical treatment beyond the 48 hours for
3 the Department to take physical custody of the infant, the Department shall assume custody of
4 any infant declared ready for discharge from a hospital within eight hours of such notification.
5 The court shall grant the Department temporary guardianship status over any newborn infant
6 in its care while a petition for guardianship is pending the issuance of a final court order. The
7 Department shall pay all associated costs, including medical care expenses within and outside
8 the territory if an infant under the Department's care requires transfer off the island for
9 additional medical care. The Department shall assign an authorized representative to
10 accompany any infant under their care during off-island transfers and medical treatment.

11 (b) Not later than 24 hours after receiving a report under section 2569(a), the
12 Department shall request assistance from law enforcement officials to investigate the matter
13 using the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children to ensure that the relinquished
14 newborn infant is not a missing child. The extent of this investigation involves only a
15 determination that the infant is not a missing child and may not extend to an investigation of
16 the relinquishing or non-relinquishing parent.

17 (c) The Department shall initiate proceedings to terminate the parental rights of the
18 relinquished newborn infant's known or unknown parents no sooner than 60 days following the
19 date of the initial relinquishment of the newborn infant to the Safe Haven Provider.

20 (d) Before filing a petition for termination of parental rights, the Department shall do
21 the following:

22 (1) Search its Putative Father Registry for the purpose of determining the identity
23 and location of the putative father of the relinquished newborn infant who is, or is
24 expected to be, the subject of an adoption proceeding, in order to provide notice of the
25 proceeding to the putative father. At least one search of the Registry must be conducted

1 at least 60 days after the relinquished newborn infant's estimated date of birth. Notice to
2 any potential putative father discovered in a search of the Registry according to the
3 estimated age of the relinquished newborn infant must be in accordance with title 16
4 Virgin Islands Code chapter 5, section 143.

5 (2) Verify with law enforcement officials, using the National Center for Missing
6 and Exploited Children that the relinquished newborn infant is not a missing child.

7 (3) No later than 10 days after the newborn infant is relinquished, the Department
8 shall attempt to identify, locate, and notify the non-relinquishing parent by performing a
9 missing-child search and publishing notice of the relinquishment of the newborn to
10 include:

11 (A) The place, date and time of the relinquishment; and

12 (B) The sex, race, approximate age, any identifying marks of the newborn
13 infant, and any other identifying information the Department considers necessary;
14 and

15 (C) A statement that the non- relinquishing parent's failure to notify the
16 Department of an intent to exercise his or her parental rights and responsibilities
17 within 20 days after publication of the notice shall be deemed to be the non-
18 relinquishing parent's irrevocable consent to the termination of all parental rights
19 and his or her irrevocable waiver of any right to notice of, or opportunity to
20 participate in, any termination of parental rights proceeding involving the
21 surrendered newborn.

22 (4) Not later than 48 hours, excluding weekends and holidays, after
23 assuming physical custody of the newborn infant, the Department shall file a
24 petition in the Family Division of the Superior Court. The petition must allege that

1 the newborn infant has been relinquished in accordance with this subchapter and
2 state that the newborn infant continues to need the Department's protection.

3 **§ 2571. Public information**

4 (a) The Department shall implement a public information program to promote safe
5 placement alternatives for newborn infants. The public information program may include the
6 following elements:

7 (1) Educational and informational materials in print, audio, video, electronic or
8 other media.

9 (2) Establishment of a dedicated page on the Department's web site.

10 (3) Public service announcements and advertisements.

11 (4) Establishment of a toll-free, 24-hour hotline.

12 (b) The Department shall make information about the Territory's Safe Haven laws,
13 Safe Haven Provider locations, and support and resources available for parents and available to
14 the public. The Department shall make information about Safe Haven relinquishment available
15 on its website.

16 **§ 2572. Petition for return of custody**

17 (a) A relinquishing or non-relinquishing parent of a newborn infant relinquished in
18 accordance with this subchapter may petition for the return of custody of the newborn infant
19 before the termination of parental rights by filing a petition for return of custody in the court in
20 which the proceeding for the termination of parental rights is pending.

21 (b) If a petition for the termination of parental rights has not been filed by the
22 Department, the parent of the relinquished newborn infant shall contact the Department, which
23 shall notify the parent of the appropriate court in which the petition for return of custody must
24 be filed.

1 (c) The court may hold the proceeding for the termination of parental rights in
2 abeyance for a period not to exceed 60 days from the date that the petition for return of custody
3 was filed without a showing of good cause. During that period:

4 (1) The court shall order genetic testing to establish maternity or paternity, or
5 both.

6 (2) The Department shall conduct a home study to develop recommendations to
7 the court.

8 (3) When indicated, as a result of the Department's investigation and home study,
9 further proceedings may be conducted. However, relinquishment of a newborn infant in
10 accordance with this subchapter does not render the newborn infant abused, neglected, or
11 abandoned solely because the newborn infant was relinquished to a Safe Haven Provider
12 in accordance with this subchapter.

13 (d) Failure to file a petition for the return of custody of a relinquished newborn infant
14 before the termination of parental rights bars any future action asserting legal rights with respect
15 to the newborn infant unless the relinquishing parent's act of relinquishment that led to the
16 termination of parental rights involved fraud perpetrated against and not stemming from or
17 involving the non-relinquishing parent.

18 (e) No action to void or revoke the termination of parental rights of a parent of a
19 newborn infant relinquished in accordance with this subchapter may be commenced after 12
20 months after the date that the newborn infant was initially relinquished to a Safe Haven
21 Provider, unless the act of relinquishment that led to the termination of parental rights involved
22 fraud.

23 **§ 2573. Evaluation**

24 (a) The Department shall collect and analyze information regarding the relinquishment
25 of infants and placement of children under this subchapter. The hospital, fire station,

1 emergency medical facility, police station, and medical professionals accepting and providing
2 services to an infant under this subchapter shall report to the Department data necessary for the
3 Department to evaluate and determine the effect of this subchapter in the prevention of injury
4 or death of infants.

5 (b) The information collected must include:

6 (1) the number of infants relinquished;

7 (2) the services provided to relinquished infants;

8 (3) the outcome of care for the relinquished infants;

9 (4) the number and disposition of cases of relinquished infants subject to
10 placement;

11 (5) the number of children accepted and served by Department; illegal
12 abandonments; and

13 (6) the services provided by the Department, and the disposition of the cases of
14 the children placed under this subchapter.

15 **§ 2574. Construction of subchapter**

16 Nothing in this subchapter may be construed to preclude the courts of this Territory from
17 exercising their discretion to protect the health and safety of children in individual cases. The
18 best interests and welfare of a child is a paramount consideration in the construction and
19 interpretation of this subchapter. It is in the child's best interests that this subchapter be
20 construed and interpreted so as not to result in extending time limits beyond those set forth in
21 this subchapter.

22 **BILL SUMMARY**

23 Section 1 of this Bill amends title 5 of the Virgin Islands Code by adding subchapter V
24 to create the Safe Haven Newborn Protection Act. This subchapter is divided into fourteen
25 sections. Internal section 2560 describes the purpose of the Act. Section 2561 defines terms

1 as they are used in the new subchapter. Section 2562 lists certain presumptions that the Act
2 allows. Section 2563 sets out the required actions that the Safe Haven Provider must take,
3 section 2564 directs that signs must be displayed, section 2565 describes the procedures for
4 temporary physical custody, and Sections 2566 and 2567 describe the immunity and anonymity
5 established by the Act. Section 2568 describes the information that must be given to the
6 relinquishing parent and to the public, section 2569 dictates the reporting requirements of the
7 hospital, and section 2570 sets out the Department of Human Services' duties and
8 responsibilities. Section 2571 requires the Department to provide information to the public.
9 Section 2572 identifies the steps a parent must take to petition for return of custody, section
10 2573 requires the Department of Human Services to collect and analyze data regarding the
11 relinquishment of infants in the Territory, and section 2574 describes the construction of the
12 act and its interpretation.

13 **BR23-0212/September 26, 2023/HLF**

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