

**Senator Gregory S. Bell** proposes the following substitute bill:

**TECHNICAL AMENDMENTS TO TITLES 78A**

**AND 78B**

2008 GENERAL SESSION

STATE OF UTAH

**Chief Sponsor: Gregory S. Bell**

House Sponsor: Douglas C. Aagard

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**LONG TITLE**

**General Description:**

This bill makes technical and coordinating amendments to Titles 78A and 78B that were missed in the recodification process.

**Highlighted Provisions:**

This bill:

- ▶ repeals provisions overlooked in the recodification process;
- ▶ coordinates with legislation already passed;
- ▶ amends a section to correct missing language;
- ▶ creates transition and savings clauses; and
- ▶ makes technical cross-reference changes.

**Monies Appropriated in this Bill:**

None

**Other Special Clauses:**

This bill provides an immediate effective date.

This bill provides retrospective operation.

This bill coordinates with S.B. 16, Exoneration and Innocence Assistance, providing for technical renumbering.



26 **Utah Code Sections Affected:**

27 AMENDS:

28 **78B-2-113**, as renumbered and amended by Laws of Utah 2008, Chapter 3

29 **78B-6-121**, as enacted by Laws of Utah 2008, Chapter 3

30 **78B-6-122**, as enacted by Laws of Utah 2008, Chapter 3

31 ENACTS:

32 **78A-1-106**, Utah Code Annotated 1953

33 **78A-1-107**, Utah Code Annotated 1953

34 RENUMBERS AND AMENDS:

35 **78A-6-1220**, (Renumbered from 78-57-110, as enacted by Laws of Utah 1999, Chapter  
36 94)

37 REPEALS:

38 **78-3a-115.1**, as last amended by Laws of Utah 2004, Chapter 324

39 **78-11-20.5**, as last amended by Laws of Utah 1997, Chapter 365

40 **78-11-21**, as enacted by Laws of Utah 1977, Chapter 181

41 **78-35-5**, as last amended by Laws of Utah 1991, Chapter 241

42 **78-45f-902**, as enacted by Laws of Utah 2000, Chapter 161



44 *Be it enacted by the Legislature of the state of Utah:*

45 Section 1. Section **78A-1-106** is enacted to read:

46 **78A-1-106. Transition clause -- Recodification of Title 78.**

47 For purposes of a matter pending in any court beginning February 7, 2008 through  
48 August 31, 2008, citation to an appropriate section in the previous Title 78, Judicial Code, shall  
49 be considered a proper citation to the corresponding section in Title 78A, Judiciary and Judicial  
50 Administration, or Title 78B, Judicial Code.

51 Section 2. Section **78A-1-107** is enacted to read:

52 **78A-1-107. Savings clause -- Recodification of Title 78.**

53 The provisions of Title 78A, Judiciary and Judicial Administration, and Title 78B,  
54 Judicial Code, are considered a continuation of the previous Title 78, Judicial Code. No loss of  
55 rights, interruption of jurisdiction, or prejudice to matters pending in any court on February 7,  
56 2008 shall result from the enactment of Titles 78A and 78B. With respect to the organization

57 of the courts, the offices of all officers and employees, shall be construed as continuations of  
58 the previous Title 78, Judicial Code. The tenure of justices, judges, justices of the peace,  
59 officers, and employees of the courts in office on February 7, 2008 is not affected by its  
60 enactment.

61 Section 3. Section **78A-6-1220**, which is renumbered from Section 78-57-110 is  
62 renumbered and amended to read:

63 ~~[78-57-110].~~ **78A-6-1220. School credit.**

64 Local school boards may provide school credit for participation as a member of a Youth  
65 Court.

66 Section 4. Section **78B-2-113** is amended to read:

67 **78B-2-113. Effect of payment, acknowledgment, or promise to pay.**

68 ~~[(1) An action based on a contract may not be brought without the defendant's~~  
69 ~~agreement in writing if the defendant has:]~~

70 ~~[(a) paid any portion of the principal or interest; or]~~

71 ~~[(b) acknowledged the debt or claim in writing:]~~

72 (1) An action for recovery of a debt may be brought within the applicable statute of  
73 limitations from the date:

74 (a) the debt arose;

75 (b) a written acknowledgment of the debt or a promise to pay is made by the debtor; or

76 (c) a payment is made on the debt by the debtor.

77 (2) If a right of action is barred by the provisions of any statute, it shall be unavailable  
78 either as a cause of action or ground for defense.

79 Section 5. Section **78B-6-121** is amended to read:

80 **78B-6-121. Consent of unmarried biological father.**

81 (1) Except as provided in Subsections (2)(a) and ~~[76B-6-122]~~ 78B-6-122(1), and  
82 subject to Subsection (5), with regard to a child who is placed with adoptive parents more than  
83 six months after birth, consent of an unmarried biological father is not required unless the  
84 unmarried biological father:

85 (a) (i) developed a substantial relationship with the child by:

86 (A) visiting the child monthly, unless the unmarried biological father was physically or  
87 financially unable to visit the child on a monthly basis; or

88 (B) engaging in regular communication with the child or with the person or authorized  
89 agency that has lawful custody of the child;

90 (ii) took some measure of responsibility for the child and the child's future; and

91 (iii) demonstrated a full commitment to the responsibilities of parenthood by financial  
92 support of the child of a fair and reasonable sum in accordance with the father's ability; or

93 (b) (i) openly lived with the child:

94 (A) (I) for a period of at least six months during the one-year period immediately  
95 preceding the day on which the child is placed with adoptive parents; or

96 (II) if the child is less than one year old, for a period of at least six months during the  
97 period of time beginning on the day on which the child is born and ending on the day on which  
98 the child is placed with adoptive parents; and

99 (B) immediately preceding placement of the child with adoptive parents; and

100 (ii) openly held himself out to be the father of the child during the six-month period  
101 described in Subsection (1)(b)(i)(A).

102 (2) (a) If an unmarried biological father was prevented from complying with a  
103 requirement of Subsection (1) by the person or authorized agency having lawful custody of the  
104 child, the unmarried biological father is not required to comply with that requirement.

105 (b) The subjective intent of an unmarried biological father, whether expressed or  
106 otherwise, that is unsupported by evidence that the requirements in Subsection (1) have been  
107 met, shall not preclude a determination that the father failed to meet the requirements of  
108 Subsection (1).

109 (3) Except as provided in Subsection 78B-6-122(1), and subject to Subsection (5), with  
110 regard to a child who is six months of age or less at the time the child is placed with adoptive  
111 parents, consent of an unmarried biological father is not required unless, prior to the time the  
112 mother executes her consent for adoption or relinquishes the child for adoption, the unmarried  
113 biological father:

114 (a) initiates proceedings in a district court of the state to establish paternity under Title  
115 78B, Chapter 15, Utah Uniform Parentage Act;

116 (b) files with the court that is presiding over the paternity proceeding a sworn affidavit:

117 (i) stating that he is fully able and willing to have full custody of the child;

118 (ii) setting forth his plans for care of the child; and

119 (iii) agreeing to a court order of child support and the payment of expenses incurred in  
120 connection with the mother's pregnancy and the child's birth;

121 (c) consistent with Subsection (4), files notice of the commencement of paternity  
122 proceedings, described in Subsection (3)(a), with the state registrar of vital statistics within the  
123 Department of Health, in a confidential registry established by the department for that purpose;  
124 and

125 (d) offered to pay and paid a fair and reasonable amount of the expenses incurred in  
126 connection with the mother's pregnancy and the child's birth, in accordance with his financial  
127 ability, unless:

128 (i) he did not have actual knowledge of the pregnancy;

129 (ii) he was prevented from paying the expenses by the person or authorized agency  
130 having lawful custody of the child; or

131 (iii) the mother refuses to accept the unmarried biological father's offer to pay the  
132 expenses described in this Subsection (3)(d).

133 (4) The notice described in Subsection (3)(c) is considered filed when it is entered into  
134 the registry described in Subsection (3)(c).

135 (5) Consent of an unmarried biological father is not required under this section if:

136 (a) the court determines, in accordance with the requirements and procedures of Title  
137 78A, Chapter 6, Part 5, Termination of Parental Rights Act, that the unmarried biological  
138 father's rights should be terminated, based on the petition of any interested party; or

139 (b) (i) a declaration of paternity declaring the unmarried biological father to be the  
140 father of the child is rescinded under Section 78B-15-306; and

141 (ii) the unmarried biological father fails to comply with Subsection (3) within ten  
142 business days after the day that notice of the rescission described in Subsection (5)(b)(i) is  
143 mailed by the Office of Vital Records within the Department of Health as provided in Section  
144 78B-15-306.

145 (6) Unless the adoptee is conceived or born within a marriage, the petitioner in an  
146 adoption proceeding shall, prior to entrance of a final decree of adoption, file with the court a  
147 certificate from the state registrar of vital statistics within the Department of Health, stating:

148 (a) that a diligent search has been made of the registry of notices from unmarried  
149 biological fathers described in Subsection (3)(c); and

150 (b) (i) that no filing has been found pertaining to the father of the child in question; or  
151 (ii) if a filing is found, the name of the putative father and the time and date of filing.

152 Section 6. Section **78B-6-122** is amended to read:

153 **78B-6-122. Qualifying circumstance.**

154 (1) (a) For purposes of this section, "qualifying circumstance" means that, at any point  
155 during the time period beginning at the conception of the child and ending at the time the  
156 mother executed a consent to adoption or relinquishment of the child for adoption:

157 (i) the child or the child's mother resided, on a permanent or temporary basis, in the  
158 state;

159 (ii) the mother intended to give birth to the child in the state;

160 (iii) the child was born in the state; or

161 (iv) the mother intended to execute a consent to adoption or relinquishment of the child  
162 for adoption:

163 (A) in the state; or

164 (B) under the laws of the state.

165 (b) For purposes of Subsection (1)(c)(i), a court shall consider the totality of the  
166 circumstances when determining whether an unmarried biological father has demonstrated a  
167 full commitment to his parental responsibilities, including, if applicable:

168 (i) efforts he has taken to discover the location of the child or the child's mother;

169 (ii) whether he has expressed or demonstrated an interest in taking responsibility for  
170 the child;

171 (iii) whether, and to what extent, he has developed, or attempted to develop, a  
172 relationship with the child;

173 (iv) whether he offered to provide and, if the offer was accepted, did provide, financial  
174 support for the child or the child's mother;

175 (v) whether, and to what extent, he has communicated, or attempted to communicate,  
176 with the child or the child's mother;

177 (vi) whether he has filed legal proceedings to establish his paternity of, and take  
178 responsibility for, the child;

179 (vii) whether he has filed a notice with a public official or agency relating to:

180 (A) his paternity of the child; or

181 (B) legal proceedings to establish his paternity of the child; or  
182 (viii) other evidence that demonstrates that he has demonstrated a full commitment to  
183 his parental responsibilities.

184 (c) Notwithstanding the provisions of Section 78B-6-121, the consent of an unmarried  
185 biological father is required with respect to an adoptee who is under the age of 18 if:

186 (i) (A) the unmarried biological father did not know, and through the exercise of  
187 reasonable diligence could not have known, before the time the mother executed a consent to  
188 adoption or relinquishment of the child for adoption, that a qualifying circumstance existed;

189 (B) before the mother executed a consent to adoption or relinquishment of the child for  
190 adoption, the unmarried biological father fully complied with the requirements to establish  
191 parental rights in the child, and to preserve the right to notice of a proceeding in connection  
192 with the adoption of the child, imposed by:

193 (I) the last state where the unmarried biological father knew, or through the exercise of  
194 reasonable diligence should have known, that the mother resided in before the mother executed  
195 the consent to adoption or relinquishment of the child for adoption; or

196 (II) the state where the child was conceived; and

197 (C) the unmarried biological father has demonstrated, based on the totality of the  
198 circumstances, a full commitment to his parental responsibilities, as described in Subsection  
199 (1)(b); or

200 (ii) (A) the unmarried biological father knew, or through the exercise of reasonable  
201 diligence should have known, before the time the mother executed a consent to adoption or  
202 relinquishment of the child for adoption, that a qualifying circumstance existed; and

203 (B) the unmarried biological father complied with the requirements of Section  
204 78B-6-121 before the later of:

205 (I) 20 days after the day that the unmarried biological father knew, or through the  
206 exercise of reasonable diligence should have known, that a qualifying circumstance existed; or

207 (II) the time that the mother executed a consent to adoption or relinquishment of the  
208 child for adoption.

209 (2) An unmarried biological father who does not fully and strictly comply with the  
210 requirements of Section 78B-6-121 and this section is considered to have waived and  
211 surrendered any right in relation to the child, including the right to:

- 212 (a) notice of any judicial proceeding in connection with the adoption of the child; and
- 213 (b) consent, or refuse to consent, to the adoption of the child.

214 Section 7. **Repealer.**

215 This bill repeals:

216 Section **78-3a-115.1, Access to abuse, neglect, and dependency hearings.**

217 Section **78-11-20.5, Criminal conviction for criminal mischief or criminal trespass**  
218 **not a prerequisite for civil action under chapter.**

219 Section **78-11-21, Property damage caused by minor -- When parent or guardian**  
220 **not liable.**

221 Section **78-35-5, Penalties for wrongful acts of defendant.**

222 Section **78-45f-902, Severability clause.**

223 Section 8. **Effective date.**

224 If approved by two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, this bill takes effect  
225 upon approval by the governor, or the day following the constitutional time limit of Utah  
226 Constitution Article VII, Section 8, without the governor's signature, or in the case of a veto,  
227 the date of veto override.

228 Section 9. **Retrospective operation.**

229 This bill has retrospective operation to February 7, 2008.

230 Section 10. **Coordinating S.B. 278 with S.B. 16 -- Technical renumbering.**

231 If this S.B. 278 and S.B. 16, Exoneration and Innocence Assistance, both pass, it is the  
232 intent of the Legislature that the following sections in S.B. 16 be renumbered as follows:

233 (1) Section 78-35a-300.5 be renumbered to 78B-9-300;

234 (2) Section 78-35a-401 be renumbered to 78B-9-401;

235 (3) Section 78-35a-402 be renumbered to 78B-9-402;

236 (4) Section 78-35a-403 be renumbered to 78B-9-403;

237 (5) Section 78-35a-404 be renumbered to 78B-9-404; and

238 (6) Section 78-35a-405 be renumbered to 78B-9-405.



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**S.B. 278 1st Sub. (Green) - Technical Amendments to Titles 78a and 78b**

**Fiscal Note**

2008 General Session

State of Utah

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**State Impact**

Enactment of this bill will not require additional appropriations.

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**Individual, Business and/or Local Impact**

Enactment of this bill likely will not result in direct, measurable costs and/or benefits for individuals, businesses, or local governments.

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