

1 A bill to be entitled
 2 An act relating to paternity testing; amending s. 742.12,
 3 F.S.; providing that in any proceeding in which the
 4 established paternity of a child is challenged the court
 5 may order the parties to submit to scientific testing;
 6 authorizing the court to order that the parties submit to
 7 scientific testing in such a proceeding without limitation
 8 of time; providing an effective date.

9
 10 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

11
 12 Section 1. Subsections (1) and (2) of section 742.12,
 13 Florida Statutes, are amended, and subsection (8) is added to
 14 that section, to read:

15 742.12 Scientific testing to determine paternity.--

16 (1) In any proceeding to establish paternity or in any
 17 proceeding in which the established paternity of a child is
 18 challenged, the court on its own motion may require the child,
 19 mother, and alleged fathers to submit to scientific tests that
 20 are generally acceptable within the scientific community to show
 21 a probability of paternity. The court shall direct that the
 22 tests be conducted by a qualified technical laboratory.

23 (2) In any proceeding to establish paternity or in any
 24 proceeding in which the established paternity of a child is
 25 challenged, the court may, upon request of a party providing a
 26 sworn statement or written declaration as provided by s.
 27 92.525(2) alleging paternity and setting forth facts
 28 establishing a reasonable possibility of the requisite sexual

HB 637

2007

29 | contact between the parties or providing a sworn statement or
30 | written declaration denying paternity and setting forth facts
31 | establishing a reasonable possibility of the nonexistence of
32 | sexual contact between the parties, require the child, mother,
33 | and alleged fathers to submit to scientific tests that are
34 | generally acceptable within the scientific community to show a
35 | probability of paternity. The court shall direct that the tests
36 | be conducted by a qualified technical laboratory.

37 | (8) The court may order the parties to submit to
38 | scientific testing in any proceeding in which the established
39 | paternity of a child is challenged without limitation of time.

40 | Section 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 2007.