



ARIZONA STATE SENATE
Fifty-Fifth Legislature, First Regular Session

FACT SHEET FOR H.B. 2410

safe havens; newborn infant age

Purpose

Increases, from 72 hours to 30 days, the age of newborn infants that safe haven placement protocols apply.

Background

Current statute defines *safe haven provider* as any of the following: 1) a firefighter who is on duty; 2) an emergency medical technician who is on duty; 3) a health care institution that is classified by the Department of Health Services as a general hospital or a rural general hospital; and 4) a staff member or volunteer at a licensed private child welfare agency or a licensed adoption agency that posts a public notice that it is willing to accept a newborn infant ([A.R.S. § 13-3623.01](#)).

Statute requires safe haven providers to: 1) immediately transport the newborn infant or arrange for the newborn infant to be transported to a hospital for physical examination; 2) call and inform the Department of Child Safety (DCS) that a newborn infant has been left with the safe haven provider, the location of the hospital where the agency transported the infant and the agency that will take custody of the infant after the hospital completes the physical examination; and 3) take custody of the infant within 24 hours of completion of the hospital's physical examination, unless the safe haven provider does not have the ability or desire to take custody of the infant. If the safe haven provider is unable to take custody of the infant or place the infant for adoption, DCS must contact the next private adoption agency on a rotating list of agencies maintained by DCS until it contacts an agency that agrees to take custody. The adoption agency must take custody of the infant from the hospital within 24 hours after the completion of a physical examination. The examination and treatment provided to the infant by the hospital must be compensated by the entity or individual that ultimately takes custody of the infant, unless the infant is provided with health coverage through the Arizona Health Care Cost Containment System. According to current statute, these protocols only apply to an infant who is 72 hours old or younger ([A.R.S. § 8-528](#)).

There is no anticipated fiscal impact to the state General Fund associated with this legislation.

Provisions

1. Increases, from 72 hours to 30 days, the age that safe haven placement protocols apply to a newborn infant.
2. Alters the definition of a *newborn infant* to include infants 30 days old or younger.
3. Specifies that safe haven placement protocols apply only to an unharmed newborn infant who is not alleged to have been neglected or abused.

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4. Requires hospitals to contact DCS to take custody of an infant who has been left with safe haven providers if:
 - a) the child is over 30 days old; or
 - b) the child is harmed.
5. Makes conforming changes.
6. Becomes effective on the general effective date.

House Action

HHS	2/1/21	DPA	9-0-0-0
3 rd Read	2/24/21		58-0-2

Prepared by Senate Research
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