

HOUSE BILL 188

By Martin G

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 8, Chapter 27; Title 56; Title 68 and Title 71, relative to pregnancy serological testing.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE:

SECTION 1. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 68-5-601(5), is amended by adding the language ", hepatitis B surface antigen," after "syphilis infection".

SECTION 2. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 68-5-602(a), is amended by deleting the subsection and substituting:

(a)

(1)

(A) Each physician, surgeon, or other person permitted by law to attend a pregnant woman during gestation shall take or cause to be taken a sample of blood from each pregnant woman at the first examination and visit or within ten (10) days after the first examination for testing for rubella immunity and hepatitis B surface antigen (HBsAg). If the first visit is at the time of or after delivery, then the testing required by this subdivision (a)(1) must be performed at that time.

(B) The blood sample must be sent to a laboratory approved by the department for testing for rubella immunity and HBsAg. In the same manner, a sample of blood must be taken during or after the twenty-eighth week of gestation for a woman whom the attending physician determines to be at high risk of hepatitis B according to the current

standards of care. This second sample must be sent to a laboratory approved by the department for testing for HBsAg.

(C) Additional testing for rubella immunity is not required in subsequent pregnancies once a positive result is verified or a documented history of vaccination against rubella is available. All pregnant women must be tested for hepatitis B during an early prenatal visit in each pregnancy.

(D) A positive test for hepatitis B must be reported to the local health department in accordance with this chapter and rules governing the control of communicable diseases in this state.

(2)

(A) Each physician, surgeon, or other person permitted by law to attend a pregnant woman during gestation shall take or cause to be taken a sample of blood from each pregnant woman for testing for syphilis infection at each of the following:

(i) The time of the first examination and visit;

(ii) Any time after the twenty-seventh week but prior to the thirty-third week of gestation; and

(iii) Time of delivery.

(B) Each blood sample must be sent to a laboratory approved by the department for testing for syphilis infection.

(C) All pregnant women must be tested for syphilis as described in this subdivision (a)(2) during each pregnancy.

(D) A positive test for syphilis must be reported to the local health department in accordance with this chapter, and regulations governing the control of communicable diseases in this state.

SECTION 3. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 68-5-602(b), is amended by deleting the subsection and substituting:

(b) Each person attending a pregnant woman who is not permitted by law to take blood samples shall cause a sample of blood to be taken by a healthcare provider permitted by law to take the samples as described in subsection (a). These samples must be submitted to the same approved laboratories for testing for HBsAg and syphilis infection. If no rubella immunity is documented, then testing for rubella is required.

SECTION 4. This act takes effect July 1, 2025, the public welfare requiring it.