
SUBSTITUTE HOUSE BILL 1285

State of Washington

64th Legislature

2015 Regular Session

By House Health Care & Wellness (originally sponsored by Representatives Riccelli, G. Hunt, Van De Wege, Harris, Cody, Holy, Jinkins, Clibborn, Robinson, Walkinshaw, Peterson, Fitzgibbon, Ormsby, Bergquist, Tarleton, Farrell, Moeller, S. Hunt, Tharinger, Stanford, and Gregerson)

1 AN ACT Relating to screening newborns for critical congenital
2 heart disease; adding a new section to chapter 70.83 RCW; and
3 creating a new section.

4 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON:

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The legislature finds the following:

6 (1) Critical congenital heart disease is an abnormality in the
7 structure or function of the heart that exists at birth, may cause
8 life-threatening symptoms, and requires early medical
9 intervention. Congenital heart disease is the most common cause of
10 death in the first year of life. Outwardly healthy babies may be
11 discharged from hospitals before signs of disease are detected.

12 (2) Pulse oximetry is a low-cost, noninvasive test that is
13 effective at detecting congenital heart defects that otherwise would
14 go undetected.

15 (3) Critical congenital heart disease was added to the national
16 recommended uniform screening panel in 2011, and the majority of
17 states have established a statewide screening for the disease.

18 (4) Requiring all hospitals and health care providers attending
19 births to screen newborns for critical congenital heart disease has
20 the potential to save newborn lives with early detection and
21 treatment.

1 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** A new section is added to chapter 70.83
2 RCW to read as follows:

3 (1) Prior to discharge of an infant born in a hospital, the
4 hospital shall:

5 (a) Perform critical congenital heart disease screening using
6 pulse oximetry according to recommended American academy of
7 pediatrics guidelines;

8 (b) Record the results of the critical congenital heart disease
9 screening test in the newborn's medical record; and

10 (c) If the screening test indicates a suspicion of abnormality,
11 refer the newborn for appropriate care and report the test results to
12 the newborn's attending physician and parent, parents, or guardian.

13 (2)(a) Except as provided in (b) of this subsection, a health
14 care provider attending a birth outside of a hospital shall, no
15 sooner than twenty-four hours after the birth of an infant born
16 outside of a hospital, but no later than forty-eight hours after the
17 birth:

18 (i) Perform critical congenital heart disease screening using
19 pulse oximetry according to recommended American academy of
20 pediatrics guidelines;

21 (ii) Record the results of the critical congenital heart disease
22 screening test in the newborn's medical record; and

23 (iii) If the screening test indicates a suspicion of abnormality,
24 refer the newborn for appropriate care and report the test results to
25 the newborn's attending physician and parent, parents, or guardian.

26 (b) If the health care provider does not perform the test
27 required in (a) of this subsection because he or she does not possess
28 the proper equipment, the health care provider shall notify the
29 parent, parents, or guardian in writing that the health care provider
30 was unable to perform the test and that the infant should be tested
31 by another health care provider no sooner than twenty-four hours
32 after the birth, but no later than forty-eight hours after the birth.

33 (3) No test may be given to a newborn infant under this section
34 whose parent, parents, or guardian object thereto on the grounds that
35 such tests conflict with their religious tenets and practices.

36 (4) The state board of health may adopt rules to implement the
37 requirements of this section.

38 (5) For purposes of this section, the following terms have the
39 following meanings unless the context clearly requires otherwise:

1 (a) "Critical congenital heart disease" means an abnormality in
2 the structure or function of the heart that exists at birth, causes
3 severe, life-threatening symptoms, and requires medical intervention
4 within the first year of life.

5 (b) "Newborn" means an infant born in any setting in the state of
6 Washington.

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