
HOUSE BILL 2544

State of Washington

63rd Legislature

2014 Regular Session

By Representatives Riccelli, Holy, Bergquist, Ormsby, Manweller,
Christian, Green, Pettigrew, and Kretz

Read first time 01/20/14. Referred to Committee on Health Care & Wellness.

1 AN ACT Relating to newborn screening; amending RCW 70.83.020;
2 adding new sections to chapter 70.83 RCW; and providing an expiration
3 date.

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

5 **Sec. 1.** RCW 70.83.020 and 2010 c 94 s 18 are each amended to read
6 as follows:

7 (1) It shall be the duty of the department of health to require
8 screening tests of all newborn infants ((before they are discharged
9 from the hospital)). Each hospital shall collect and submit a sample
10 blood specimen for all newborns born in the hospital no more than
11 forty-eight hours following birth. The department of health shall
12 conduct screening tests of samples for the detection of phenylketonuria
13 and other heritable or metabolic disorders leading to intellectual
14 disabilities or physical defects as defined by the state board of
15 health: PROVIDED, That no such tests shall be given to any newborn
16 infant whose parents or guardian object thereto on the grounds that
17 such tests conflict with their religious tenets and practices.

18 (2) The sample required in subsection (1) of this section must be

1 received by the department within seventy-two hours of the collection
2 of the sample.

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

5 In each instance in which the department of health notifies the
6 infant's attending health care provider that the infant's screening
7 test indicates a suspicion of abnormality, which may include an
8 inadequate collection of a sample blood specimen, that requires further
9 diagnostic evaluation, the attending health care provider shall notify
10 the department of health of the date upon which the screening test
11 results were disclosed by the attending health care provider to the
12 parents or guardian of the infant.

13 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** A new section is added to chapter 70.83 RCW
14 to read as follows:

15 The department of health shall compile an annual report for public
16 distribution regarding the compliance rate of hospitals at meeting the
17 deadlines established under RCW 70.83.020 for newborn screenings. The
18 report must include information related to the performance of each
19 individual hospital. The annual report must also include information
20 about the extent to which health care providers are promptly informing
21 parents and guardians about infant screening tests that indicate a
22 suspicion of abnormality that requires further diagnostic evaluation.
23 The report must be made available in a format that does not disclose
24 any identifying information related to any infant, parent, or guardian,
25 or health care provider. The report must be posted in an accessible
26 location on the department of health's web site.

27 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 4.** Sections 2 and 3 of this act expire January
28 1, 2020.

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