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HOUSE BILL 1285

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State of Washington

64th Legislature

2015 Regular Session

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

Read first time 01/16/15. Referred to Committee on Health Care & Wellness.

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) A hospital or a health care provider attending a birth  
4 outside of a hospital shall:

5            (a) Prior to discharge, perform critical congenital heart disease  
6 screening using pulse oximetry;

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

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

12        (2) The state board of health may adopt rules to implement the  
13 requirements of this section.

14        (3) For purposes of this section, the following terms have the  
15 following meanings unless the context clearly requires otherwise:

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

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

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