
SUBSTITUTE HOUSE BILL 2544

State of Washington 63rd Legislature 2014 Regular Session

By House Health Care & Wellness (originally sponsored by Representatives Riccelli, Holy, Bergquist, Ormsby, Manweller, Christian, Green, Pettigrew, and Kretz)

READ FIRST TIME 02/05/14.

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

1 (2) The sample required in subsection (1) of this section must be
2 received by the department within seventy-two hours of the collection
3 of the sample, excluding any day that the Washington state public
4 health laboratory is closed.

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

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

15 NEW SECTION. Sec. 3. A new section is added to chapter 70.83 RCW
16 to read as follows:

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

29 NEW SECTION. Sec. 4. Sections 2 and 3 of this act expire January
30 1, 2020.

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