

SCS HB 716 -- NEWBORN SCREENING TESTS AND PREMATURE INFANTS

This bill changes the laws regarding newborn screening tests and premature infants.

NEWBORN SCREENING TESTS

The Brady Alan Cunningham Newborn Screening Act is established which requires, by July 1, 2012, the Department of Health and Senior Services to expand newborn screening requirements to include certain specified lysosomal storage diseases. The department is authorized to increase the current fee for newborn screening tests to cover the additional costs of the expanded tests.

PREMATURE INFANTS

The MO HealthNet Program and the State Children's Health Insurance Program (SCHIP), in consultation with statewide organizations focused on premature infant health care, must examine and improve hospital discharge and follow-up care procedures for premature infants born earlier than 37 weeks gestational age; urge certain hospitals to report rehospitalizations of infants born premature at earlier than 37 weeks gestational age within their first six months of life; and use guidance from the federal Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services' Neonatal Outcomes Improvement Project to implement programs to improve outcomes, reduce costs, and establish ongoing quality improvement for newborns. By December 31, 2009, the Department of Health and Senior Services must prepare written educational publications with information about possible complications, proper care, and support associated with premature infants; distribute the materials to children's health and maternal care providers, hospitals, public health departments, and medical organizations; and encourage those organizations to provide the publications to parents or guardians of premature infants.