

HCS HB 1807 -- NEWBORN SCREENING TESTS

SPONSOR: Solon

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "Do Pass" by the Special Standing Committee on Emerging Issues in Health Care by a vote of 12 to 0.

This bill specifies that each birthing hospital or birth center in the state must designate an employee to be responsible for the newborn screening program in that institution.

All information requested must be provided on the newborn screening collection forms purchased from the Department of Health and Senior Services and submitted to the appropriate courier service pickup location as soon as the specimens are dry, which must be a minimum of three hours from the time of collection, and no later than within 24 hours of collection in order to be transported to the department's laboratories via the next scheduled courier pickup. If courier service is unavailable, then first-class mail or other appropriate means can be utilized within the same time constraints for the sending of the specimens.

The bill requires specimens to be collected in accordance with instructions on the specimen collection form and the timing of specimen collection must be determined by certain specified conditions.

A health care provider caring for an infant with an abnormal high-risk test report from newborn screening must report a definitive diagnosis within 30 days of the date of diagnosis to the appropriate newborn screening follow-up center as contracted by the department.

Any person or entity that has reason to believe that a physician, certified nurse midwife, public health facility, ambulatory surgical center, or hospital violated these provisions must file a complaint with the department. Upon receipt of the complaint the department is required to conduct an investigation of the suspected physician, certified nurse midwife, public health facility, ambulatory surgical center, or hospital.

PROPONENTS: Supporters say that every child in Missouri is required to undergo blood screening when born and Missouri's newborn screening program is considered a major public health success. According to an article on December 25th in the Kansas City Star about a study conducted in Milwaukee, Missouri is ranked the 5th worst program nationwide in timely delivery of samples to the lab. Currently the courier service is not available on weekends and the state lab is not open on Saturdays. The new

budget now includes expanding the state lab to be open on Saturdays and funds a courier to collect samples on holidays and weekends. This bill is an additional, necessary step to ensure samples are delivered to the state lab at the proper time and in the proper manner. Early detection of genetic defects leads to early intervention and better health outcomes. Missouri has very advanced lab technology, but this technology is useless if the screening samples are not delivered to the lab in time.

Testifying for the bill were Representative Solon; Dr. Sarah Gordon; and Brianna Bruening.

OPPONENTS: There was no opposition voiced to the committee.

OTHERS: Others testifying on the bill say they understand the argument for changes and agree they should occur however the changes could be done more quickly and more effectively outside of the legislative process through education via the Department of Health and Human Services either through regulation or through agreement with the industry.

Testifying on the bill was the Missouri Hospital Association.