

Public Act 91-0067

HB0596 Enrolled

LRB9102397SMpr

AN ACT regarding hearing screening for newborns.

Be it enacted by the People of the State of Illinois, represented in the General Assembly:

Section 1. Short title. This Act may be cited as the Hearing Screening for Newborns Act.

Section 5. Mandatory hearing screening. By December 31, 2002, all hospitals performing deliveries shall conduct hearing screening of all newborn infants prior to discharge.

Section 10. Reports to Department of Public Health. Hospitals shall report information about each child with a positive hearing screening result to the Illinois Department of Public Health.

Section 15. Department of Public Health to maintain registry of cases. The Illinois Department of Public Health shall maintain a registry of cases of positive hearing screening results, including information needed for the purpose of follow-up services.

Section 20. Hearing screening advisory committee. By July 1, 2000, the Department of Human Services shall organize an advisory committee including representatives from the Department of Public Health, the University of Illinois Division of Specialized Care for Children, public and private hospitals, pediatric associations, audiologists, health insurance plans, hearing-impaired persons, parents of hearing-impaired children, and early intervention services. The committee shall:

(a) Develop and conduct training for hospitals implementing newborn hearing screening.

(b) Develop a tracking and follow-up program for diagnostic hearing testing for those infants failing hospital-based screening, in order to diagnose congenital hearing loss.

(c) Develop a referral system to early intervention services and hearing aids for those infants diagnosed with hearing loss.

(d) Develop an application process for financial assistance by the Division of Specialized Care for Children for follow-up diagnostic hearing testing of newborns failing hospital-based screening.

(e) Develop educational and informational materials for hospital personnel, health care professionals, and parents on appropriate follow-up procedures for infants failing hospital-based screening.

(f) Monitor any reports made available to the State with respect to the hearing screening status of all newborns.

(g) Monitor the availability of third party reimbursement for universal hospital-based hearing screening of newborn infants.

(h) Review administrative rules and make recommendations to the Department regarding such rules.

Section 25. Objections to test. The provisions of this Act shall not apply when the parent or guardian of the newborn infant objects to hearing screening on the grounds that the screening conflicts with his or her religious beliefs and practices. A written statement of the objection shall be presented to the physician or other person whose duty it is to administer and report the screening under the provisions of this Act.

Section 30. Rules. The Department of Human Services shall promulgate rules necessary to implement this Act.

Section 99. Effective date. This Act takes effect upon becoming law.