

State of Arkansas
89th General Assembly
Regular Session, 2013

A Bill

SENATE BILL 423

By: Senators B. Pierce, K. Ingram

For An Act To Be Entitled

AN ACT TO PROVIDE FOR THE EXPANSION OF TESTING OF
NEWBORN INFANTS FOR GENETIC DISORDERS; AND FOR OTHER
PURPOSES.

Subtitle

TO PROVIDE FOR THE EXPANSION OF TESTING
OF NEWBORN INFANTS FOR GENETIC DISORDERS.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:

SECTION 1. Arkansas Code § 20-15-302(a) and (b), concerning testing of newborns, is amended to read as follows:

20-15-302. Testing of newborns.

(a)(1)(A) All newborn infants shall be tested for phenylketonuria, hypothyroidism, galactosemia, cystic fibrosis, and sickle-cell anemia.

(B) In addition, if reliable and efficient testing techniques are available, all newborn infants shall be tested for other genetic disorders ~~of metabolism~~ by employing procedures approved by the State Board of Health.

(2)(A) Medicaid shall reimburse the hospital that performs the tests required under subdivision (a)(1) of this section for the cost of the tests.

(B) The reimbursement shall be in addition to the hospital's per diem payments for the newborn infant.

(b) All positive test results shall be sent immediately to the ~~Division of Health of the Department of Health and Human Services~~ Department of Health.



SECTION 2. Arkansas Code § 23-79-129(a)(2), concerning insurance coverage for newborn infants, is amended to read as follows:

(2) The coverage of newborn children shall be the same as is provided for other members of the insured's family and shall include:

(A) Coverage for illness, injury, congenital defects, and premature birth;

(B) Coverage for tests for hypothyroidism, phenylketonuria, galactosemia, sickle-cell anemia, and all other genetic disorders ~~of metabolism~~ for which screening is performed by or for the State of Arkansas, as well as any testing of newborn infants hereafter mandated by law; and

(C) Subject to minimum benefits required by § 23-99-404, coverage to pay for routine nursery care and pediatric charges for a well newborn child for up to five (5) full days in a hospital nursery or until the mother is discharged from the hospital following the birth of the child, whichever is the lesser period of time.

APPROVED: 03/18/2013