

Stricken language would be deleted from and underlined language would be added to present law.
Act 490 of the Regular Session

State of Arkansas
94th General Assembly
Regular Session, 2023

As Engrossed: H1/23/23 S3/27/23
A Bill

HOUSE BILL 1102

By: Representative Pilkington
By: Senator C. Penzo

For An Act To Be Entitled

AN ACT TO CREATE THE UNIVERSAL NEWBORN SCREENING ACT;
TO ENSURE THAT NEWBORNS ARE SCREENED FOR CONDITIONS
RECOMMENDED BY THE UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
AND HUMAN SERVICES; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

Subtitle

TO CREATE THE UNIVERSAL NEWBORN SCREENING
ACT; AND TO ENSURE THAT NEWBORNS ARE
SCREENED FOR CONDITIONS RECOMMENDED BY
THE UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
AND HUMAN SERVICES.

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

SECTION 1. DO NOT CODIFY. Title.

This act shall be known and may be cited as the "Universal Newborn
Screening Act".

SECTION 2. Arkansas Code § 20-15-302 is amended to read as follows:

20-15-302. Testing of newborn infants.

(a)(1)(A) There is created an advance universal newborn screening
program to be administered by the Department of Health.

(B)(i) All newborn infants shall be tested for
~~phenylketonuria, hypothyroidism, galactosemia, cystic fibrosis, sickle-cell
anemia, and spinal muscular atrophy~~ core medical conditions as listed in the
recommended uniform screening panel recommended by the United States



Secretary of Health and Human Services, in order to provide appropriate newborn screening guidelines to protect the health and welfare of newborns.

(ii) For each core medical condition added to the list of recommended uniform screening panel by the United States Secretary of Health and Human Services, the Department of Health or its designee, in accordance with §20-15-304, shall begin testing for the newly added core medical conditions upon approval of the appropriation of funding by the General Assembly or funding under §20-15-304, if required, or within thirty-six (36) months upon introduction to the recommended uniform screening panel recommended by the United States Secretary of Health and Human Services.

~~(B) In addition, if reliable and efficient testing techniques are available, all newborn infants shall be tested for other genetic disorders 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 Department of Health.

(c)(1) ~~The department~~ Department of Health shall establish and maintain a program of reviewing and following up on positive cases so that measures may be taken to ~~prevent intellectual and other developmental support~~ early diagnosis, treatment, and services for healthy development and prevent disability or other permanent disabilities morbidity.

(2)(A) Information on newborn infants and their families compiled under this section may be used by the ~~department~~ Department of Health and persons or public or private entities designated by the ~~department~~ Department of Health.

(B) Information used under subdivision (c)(2)(A) of this section may not refer to or disclose the identity of any person.

(3) All materials, data, and information received by the ~~department~~ Department of Health are confidential and are not subject to examination or disclosure as public information under the Freedom of Information Act of 1967, § 25-19-101 et seq.

(d)(1) The ~~department~~ Department of Health shall conduct an intensive educational and training program among physicians, hospitals, public health nurses, and the public concerning the ~~disorders covered under this section~~ conditions.

(2) The program shall include information concerning:

(A) The nature of the ~~disorders~~ conditions;

(B) Testing for the detection of these ~~disorders~~ conditions; and

(C) Treatment modalities for these ~~disorders~~ conditions.

(e) The provisions of this section shall not apply if the parents or legal guardian of a newborn infant object to the testing on medical, religious, or philosophical grounds.

~~(f) Testing for cystic fibrosis under this section shall be implemented only if funding is available.~~

SECTION 3. Arkansas Code § 20-15-304 is amended to read as follows:

20-15-304. Administration by Department of Health.

It shall be the duty of the Department of Health to:

(1) Enforce this subchapter;

(2) Prescribe the tests that may be administered in compliance with this subchapter;

(3) Promulgate rules in conjunction with the Insurance Commissioner establishing:

(A) What persons and institutions shall be required to obtain specimens from newborn infants in compliance with this subchapter;

(B) The amount to be charged by the central laboratory for processing the specimens; and

(C) The method of billing the charges to the persons and institutions;

(4) Furnish copies of this subchapter and the rules promulgated pursuant to this subchapter to physicians, hospitals, or other institutions or persons required by its rules to have tests administered to newborn infants;

(5)(A) Establish a central laboratory and to equip, staff, and operate the laboratory for the purpose of receiving specimens from physicians, hospitals, and institutions, to assure that tests are conducted,

and to report findings resulting from the tests.

(B) Initial laboratory screening tests for conditions under this subchapter shall be performed by the department or its designee;

(6)(A) Monitor positive test results and assist in treatment and care of affected infants, such follow-up procedures to begin no later than ten (10) days from the time a specimen is diagnosed as positive.

(B) The department shall monitor infants to assure appropriate testing to confirm the condition suggested by the screening test results; and

(7) Disseminate information and advice to the public concerning the dangers and effects of ~~phenylketonuria, hypothyroidism, galactosemia, sickle-cell anemia, and all other disorders of metabolism~~ conditions for which screening is performed by or for the State of Arkansas.

SECTION 4. Arkansas Code § 23-79-1801(4), concerning the definition of "spinal muscular atrophy" regarding coverage for newborn screening for spinal muscular atrophy, is repealed.

~~(4) "Spinal muscular atrophy" means a genetic disease that affects the part of the nervous system that controls voluntary muscle movement.~~

SECTION 5. Arkansas Code § 23-79-1802 is amended to read as follows:

23-79-1802. Coverage for newborn screening ~~for spinal muscular atrophy.~~

(a) A health benefit plan that is offered, issued, or renewed in this state shall provide coverage for newborn screening for ~~spinal muscular atrophy~~ conditions as determined by the Department of Health under § 20-15-302 by a healthcare professional on or after January 1, 2020.

(b) The coverage for newborn screening ~~for spinal muscular atrophy~~ under this section:

(1) Is not subject to policy deductibles or copayment requirements; and

(2) Does not diminish or limit benefits otherwise allowable under a health benefit plan.

APPROVED: 4/10/23