
DIGEST

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Thierry

HB No. 322

Abstract: Requires birthing facilities to perform pulse oximetry screening on newborn babies before discharge from a birthing facility.

Proposed law creates the Newborn Critical Congenital Heart Disease Screening Program to screen all La. newborns for congenital heart defects (CHDs).

Proposed law provides for definitions.

Proposed law provides legislative intent, which describes how Critical Congenital Heart Disease (CCHD) can cause severe and life-threatening symptoms, which require intervention within the first days of life.

Proposed law provides that early detection of CHDs can decrease mortality and lead to better outcomes for affected children.

Proposed law provides that CHDs occur in approximately one in 110 births in the U.S., and about 25% of CHDs are considered CCHDs.

Proposed law provides that current methods for screening for CCHDs often miss defects that can be detected by pulse oximetry screening.

Proposed law explains that lives can be saved with immediate intervention if an infant is found to have a CHD within the first days of life.

Proposed law declares that many lives can be saved by early detection and treatment thanks to this simple, noninvasive newborn screening in conjunction with current CCHD screening methods.

Proposed law requires that every birthing facility in the state of La. perform pulse oximetry screening on each newborn before discharge, unless prohibited by the parent or guardian of the newborn.

(Adds R.S. 40:1300.361-1300.363)