
DIGEST

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HB 171 Original

2016 Regular Session

Hodges

Abstract: Requires birthing facilities to offer to parents of newborns the opportunity to receive information and view a video presentation on shaken baby syndrome and sudden infant death syndrome.

Proposed law provides definitions.

Proposed law provides findings relative to the dangers of shaken baby syndrome and sudden infant death syndrome. Declares that prevention of these conditions is a major public health priority of this state.

Proposed law requires every birthing facility that discharges a newborn child to request that each maternity patient and father of a newborn child, if available, view a video presentation and read printed materials approved by DHH that, collectively, address all of the following:

- (1) The dangers of shaking infants and children.
- (2) The symptoms of shaken baby syndrome.
- (3) The dangers associated with rough handling or the striking of an infant.
- (4) Safety measures which can be taken to prevent sudden infant death.
- (5) The dangers associated with infants sleeping in the same bed with other children or adults.

Proposed law requires that after the mother and father, if available, view the presentation and read the materials provided for in proposed law, or upon a refusal to do so, the birthing facility shall request that the mother and father, if available, sign a form indicating that he or she has viewed and read, or refused to view and read, the presentation and materials.

Proposed law requires DHH to promulgate all administrative rules as are necessary to implement the provisions of proposed law. Provides that at minimum, the rules shall designate one or more video presentations and the compendium of printed materials approved for use by birthing facilities in meeting the requirements of proposed law.

Proposed law authorizes DHH to do the following:

- (1) Furnish to birthing centers any presentation, materials, and forms provided for in proposed law.
- (2) Conduct public awareness activities designed to promote the prevention of shaken baby syndrome and prevention of sudden infant death syndrome. Proposed law provides that the public awareness activities may include but shall not be limited to the following:
 - (a) Public service announcements.
 - (b) Information kits and brochures.
 - (c) Promotion of relevant telephone hotlines.
 - (d) Provision of information concerning shaken baby syndrome and sudden infant death syndrome on an internet website.

(Adds R.S. 40:1086.1-1086.4)