

26:2-110 26:2-111

LEGISLATIVE HISTORY CHECKLIST

HJSA 26:2-110, 26:2-111 (Newborn to be tested for hypothyroidism)

LAWS OF 1977 CHAPTER 321

Bill No. S1706

Sponsor(s) Beadleston

Date Introduced October 7, 1976

Committee: Assembly Institutions, Health, Welfare

Senate Institutions, Health, Welfare

Amended during passage Yes * Amendments during passage denoted by asterisks

Date of Passage: Assembly May 16, 1977

Senate January 27, 1977

Date of approval January 10, 1978

Following statements are attached if available:

Sponsor statement Yes * (Below)

Committee Statement: Assembly ** No

Senate Yes *

Fiscal Note Yes *

Veto Message ** No

Message on signing ** No

Following were printed:

Reports ** No

Hearings ** No

Sponsor's Statement:

This bill provides for a screening process for hypothyroidism in newborn children which would allow the early detection of the condition, provide an opportunity for treatment and thereby prevent mental retardation resulting from the disease.

9/1/78

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11/19/76

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SENATE, No. 1706

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

INTRODUCED OCTOBER 7, 1976

By Senator BEADLESTON

Referred to Committee on Institutions, Health and Welfare

AN ACT providing for the testing of newborn children for purposes of the early detection of hypothyroidism ***[and making an appropriation therefor]***.

1 BE IT ENACTED *by the Senate and General Assembly of the State*
2 *of New Jersey:*

1 1. It is hereby declared to be the public policy of this State that
2 in the interests of public health every newborn infant should be
3 given a test approved by the State Department of Health for the
4 detection of hypothyroidism in order to prevent mental retarda-
5 tion resulting from this disease. No such test shall be made on any
6 newborn infant if the parents of said child object thereto on the
7 grounds that such a test would conflict with their religious tenets
8 or practices.

1 2. The State Department of Health shall institute and carry on
2 such laboratory services as are deemed necessary by the Public
3 Health Council and an intensive educational and training pro-
4 gram among physicians, hospitals, public health nurses and the
5 public concerning the disease of hypothyroidism. This program
6 shall include information concerning the nature of the disease and
7 testing for the detection of this disease in infancy in order that
8 measures may be taken to prevent mental retardation resulting
9 from this disease. The State Commissioner of Health shall make
10 rules governing the submission to the State Laboratory of ***[speci-**
11 **men]*** **specimens** for testing **for** hypothyroidism.

12 The commissioner shall provide a program of reviewing and
13 following up on positive cases in order that measures may be taken
14 to prevent mental retardation resulting from the disease.

1 ***[3.** There is appropriated \$200,000.00 to the State Department
2 of Health for the purpose of initiating and administering the
3 program provided by this act.]*

1 ***[4.]*** **3.** This act shall take effect ***[immediately]*** **on July*
2 *1 following enactment**.

EXPLANATION—Matter enclosed in bold-faced brackets [thus] in the above bill is not enacted and is intended to be omitted in the law.

SENATE INSTITUTIONS, HEALTH AND WELFARE

COMMITTEE

STATEMENT TO

SENATE, No. 1706

with Senate committee amendments

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

DATED: JANUARY 11, 1971

This bill establishes it as State policy that every newborn child be given a test approved by the Department of Health for the detection of hypothyroidism. The bill is modeled after P. L. 1964, c. 268, an act which gave the Health Department responsibility to combat phenylketonuria (PKU). Both hypothyroidism and PKU are diseases which attack the newborn and cause mental retardation.

Like the PKU act of 1964—which has brought to pass almost universal testing for that disease—this bill is not strictly mandatory. It does not require that every infant be tested for hypothyroidism. It does not require that the State Laboratory be used whenever blood specimens are in fact taken for testing, nor that the State pay for all such testing. Instead, while declaring it to be public policy that every newborn be tested for hypothyroidism, the bill directs the Health Department to bring about such comprehensive testing primarily through a program of education and training. The program would be directed at physicians, public health nurses, hospitals and the general public. State Laboratory services for testing would be used only as deemed necessary by the Public Health Council. The bill adds a provision not found in the PKU act: It requires the Commissioner of Health to follow up on cases of hypothyroidism in order to ensure that measures are taken to prevent the occurrence of mental retardation.

The Department of Health, which actively supports Senate Bill No. 1706, estimates that \$83,000.00 will be needed annually for laboratory services to be provided under the bill. However, the committee deleted an appropriation section when it changed the effective date of the act to the beginning of the next fiscal year. Funds necessary for hypothyroidism testing may be provided through the normal appropriations process.

FISCAL NOTE TO
SENATE, No. 1706
[OFFICIAL COPY REPRINT]

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

DATED: APRIL 18, 1977

The Official Copy Reprint of Senate Bill No. 1706 provides for the testing of newborn children for the purpose of early detection of hypothyroidism.

To cover the costs of administration, training, educational and laboratory expenses, the Department of Health estimates that enactment of this legislation would require a State expenditure of \$104,725.00 in fiscal 1977-78, \$56,522.00 in fiscal 1978-79 and \$58,623.00 in fiscal 1979-80.

The fiscal note is based on an estimate of costs rather than actual cost information.

In compliance with written request received, there is hereby submitted a fiscal estimate for the above bill, pursuant to P. L. 1962, c. 27.