

ASSEMBLY, No. 472

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

219th LEGISLATURE

PRE-FILED FOR INTRODUCTION IN THE 2020 SESSION

Sponsored by:

Assemblyman JOHN CATALANO

District 10 (Ocean)

Assemblywoman AURA K. DUNN

District 25 (Morris and Somerset)

SYNOPSIS

Includes screening for toxoplasmosis in newborn screening program.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

Introduced Pending Technical Review by Legislative Counsel.



(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 2/20/2020)

1 **AN ACT** concerning screening for disorders in newborn infants and
2 amending P.L.1977, c.321.

3

4 **BE IT ENACTED** by the Senate and General Assembly of the State
5 of New Jersey:

6

7 1. Section 1 of P.L.1977, c.321 (C.26:2-110) is amended to
8 read as follows:

9 1. It is hereby declared to be the public policy of this State that
10 in the interests of public health every effort should be made to
11 detect in newborn infants~~],~~ hypothyroidism, galactosemia,
12 phenylketonuria, and other preventable biochemical~~]~~ disorders
13 which may cause mental retardation or other permanent disabilities
14 and to treat affected individuals pursuant to P.L.1977, c.321
15 (C.26:2-110 et seq.).
16 (cf: P.L.1988, c.24, s.2)

17

18 2. Section 2 of P.L.1977, c.321 (C.26:2-111) is amended to
19 read as follows:

20 2. All infants born in this State shall be tested for
21 hypothyroidism, galactosemia ~~and],~~ phenylketonuria~~].~~ The~~],~~
22 toxoplasmosis, and such other disorders as determined necessary by
23 the Commissioner of Health and Senior Services. The commissioner
24 shall issue regulations to assure that newborns are so tested in a
25 manner approved by the commissioner. The commissioner shall
26 ensure that treatment services are available to all identified
27 individuals.

28 The ~~State]~~ Department of Health and Senior Services may
29 charge a reasonable fee for the tests performed pursuant to this act.
30 The amount of the fee and the procedures for collecting the fee shall
31 be determined by the commissioner. The commissioner shall apply
32 all revenues collected from the fees to the testing and treatment
33 procedures performed pursuant to this act.

34 The commissioner may also require testing of newborn infants
35 for other preventable ~~biochemical]~~ disorders if reliable and
36 efficient testing techniques are available. If the commissioner
37 determines that an additional test shall be required, the
38 commissioner, at least 90 days prior to requiring the test ~~he]~~, shall
39 so advise the President of the Senate, Speaker of the General
40 Assembly, and chairmen of the following standing reference
41 committees ~~on Revenue, Finance]~~ : the Senate Budget and
42 Appropriations [and Institutions,] Committee; the General
43 Assembly Appropriations Committee; the Senate Health, Human
44 Services and Senior Citizens Committee; and the General Assembly
45 Health [and Welfare of his determination] and Senior Services

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

Matter underlined thus is new matter.

1 Committee; or their successors.

2 The commissioner shall provide a program of reviewing and
3 following up on positive cases in order that measures may be taken
4 to prevent mental retardation or other permanent disabilities.

5 Information on newborn infants and their families compiled
6 pursuant to this section may be used by the department and agencies
7 designated by the commissioner for the purposes of carrying out
8 this act, but otherwise the information shall be confidential and not
9 divulged or made public so as to disclose the identity of any person
10 to which it relates, except as provided by law. The department shall
11 conduct an intensive educational and training program among
12 physicians, hospitals, public health nurses and the public
13 concerning those **【biochemical】** disorders. This program shall
14 include information concerning the nature of the disorders, testing
15 for the detection of these disorders and treatment modalities for
16 these disorders.

17 The provisions of this section shall not apply if the parents of a
18 newborn infant object to the testing on the grounds that it would
19 conflict with their religious tenets or practices.

20 (cf: P.L.1988, c.24, s.3)

21

22 3. This act shall take effect on the 180th day after enactment,
23 except that the Commissioner of Health and Senior Services shall
24 take such anticipatory administrative action in advance as shall be
25 necessary for its implementation.

26

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28 STATEMENT

29

30 This bill expands the number of disorders for which newborn
31 infants in this State are required to be tested to include
32 toxoplasmosis.

33 At present, the State is required, through a combination of
34 statute, regulation, and order of the Commissioner of Health and
35 Senior Services, to screen newborn infants for a total of 54
36 disorders.

37 Toxoplasmosis is an infection caused by a parasite sometimes
38 found in cat feces, undercooked meat, raw eggs, and soil. If a
39 pregnant woman is infected, there is a 40% chance that her fetus
40 will also be infected. Often the disorder is undetectable in a
41 newborn infant without a blood test. If not detected and treated
42 early, the disorder can result in a child suffering from lifelong
43 complications, including mental retardation, severely impaired
44 eyesight, cerebral palsy, and seizures.

45 The bill also updates the names in N.J.S.A.26:2-111 of the
46 standing legislative reference committees which the commissioner
47 is required to advise upon the determination that a test for another
48 disorder is required.