

ASSEMBLY, No. 3559

STATE OF NEW JERSEY 219th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED FEBRUARY 25, 2020

Sponsored by:

Assemblywoman PAMELA R. LAMPITT

District 6 (Burlington and Camden)

SYNOPSIS

Requires vitamin K to be administered to newborns within six hours of birth.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



1 **AN ACT** concerning newborns and supplementing Title 26 of the
2 Revised Statutes.

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

6
7 1. The Commissioner of Health shall require that vitamin K be
8 administered to each newborn born in the State within six hours of
9 birth by the health care professional responsible for providing care
10 to the newborn. The vitamin K shall be administered in accordance
11 with current standards of medical care, and shall be administered
12 intramuscularly or by such other means of administration as may be
13 approved by the commissioner. The administration of vitamin K
14 shall be documented in the newborn's medical record.

15
16 2. The Commissioner of Health shall adopt rules and
17 regulations, pursuant to the "Administrative Procedure Act,"
18 P.L.1968, c.410 (C.52:14B-1 et seq.), necessary to carry out the
19 purposes of this act.

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21 3. This act shall take effect immediately.

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STATEMENT

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26 This bill requires the Commissioner of Health to require that
27 vitamin K be administered to each newborn born in the State within
28 six hours of birth by the health care professional responsible for
29 providing care to the newborn. The vitamin K is to be administered
30 in accordance with current standards of medical care, and is to be
31 administered intramuscularly or by an alternate means approved by
32 the commissioner. The administration of vitamin K is to be
33 documented in the newborn's medical record.

34 Vitamin K is a vital nutrient needed for blood to clot normally.
35 Babies are born with very little vitamin K in their bodies, and in the
36 first few months of life are not able to produce their own vitamin K
37 or absorb significant amounts from their mother's breast milk.
38 Infants who do not receive vitamin K at birth are estimated to be 81
39 times more likely to develop vitamin K deficiency bleeding, or
40 VKDB, which is uncontrolled bleeding that can occur anywhere in
41 the body, including the intestines and brain, and in severe cases can
42 result in brain damage or death. Over the last two decades, the
43 widespread administration of vitamin K at birth has been associated
44 with a significant reduction in reported cases of VKDB.