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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2020

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A N A C T

RELATING TO HEALTH AND SAFETY -- NEWBORN SCREENING PROGRAM

Introduced By: Representatives Amore, Phillips, Hawkins, Ranglin-Vassell, and  
Donovan

Date Introduced: February 14, 2020

Referred To: House Health, Education & Welfare

It is enacted by the General Assembly as follows:

1           SECTION 1. Section 23-13-14 of the General Laws in Chapter 23-13 entitled "Maternal  
2 and Child Health Services for Children with Special Health Care Needs" is hereby amended to read  
3 as follows:

4           **23-13-14. Newborn screening program.**

5           (a) The physician attending a newborn child shall cause that child to be subject to newborn  
6 screening tests for metabolic, endocrine, and hemoglobinopathy disorders, and other conditions for  
7 which there is a medical benefit to the early detection and treatment of the disorder, and an  
8 assessment for developmental risk. The department of health shall make rules and regulations  
9 pertaining to screenings, diagnostic, and treatment services as accepted medical practice shall  
10 indicate. Such rules and regulations shall include, at a minimum, newborn screening tests for all  
11 disorders and conditions listed in the current version of the federal Recommended Uniform  
12 Screening Panel (RUSP) issued by the Secretary of the U.S. Department of Health and Human  
13 Services, and shall include newborn screening tests for all new disorders or conditions added to the  
14 federal RUSP within two (2) years after the disorder or condition is added; provided, if the director  
15 of health determines in writing that it is not practicable to include a new disorder or condition within  
16 two years, the time period may be extended for the shortest amount of time necessary, as determined  
17 by the director. The provisions of this section shall not apply if the parents of the child object to the  
18 tests on the grounds that those tests conflict with their religious tenets and practices.

19           (b) In addition, the department of health is authorized to establish by rule and regulation a

1 reasonable fee structure for the newborn screening and disease control program, which includes  
2 but is not limited to screening, diagnostic, and treatment services. The program shall be a covered  
3 benefit and be reimbursable by all health insurers, as defined in § 27-38.2-2(4), providing health  
4 insurance coverage in Rhode Island except for supplemental policies which only provide coverage  
5 for specific diseases, hospital indemnity Medicare supplements, or other supplemental policies.  
6 The department of human services shall pay for the program where the patient is eligible for  
7 medical assistance under the provisions of chapter 8 of title 40. The charges for the program shall  
8 be borne by the hospitals or other health-care facilities where births occur in the absence of a third-  
9 party payor. Nothing in this section shall preclude the hospital or health care facility from billing  
10 the patient directly.

11 (c) There is created within the general fund a restricted receipt account to be known as the  
12 "newborn screening account" to implement the provisions of § 23-13-13 and § 23-13-14. All funds  
13 received pursuant to § 23-13-13 and § 23-13-14 shall be deposited in the account. Funding  
14 dedicated exclusively to implement the provisions of § 23-13-13 and § 23-13-14 and received by  
15 the department of health from sources other than those identified in § 23-13-13 and § 23-13-14 may  
16 also be deposited in the newborn screening account. The general treasurer is authorized and directed  
17 to draw his or her orders on the account upon receipt of properly authenticated vouchers from the  
18 department of health.

19 SECTION 2. This act shall take effect on January 1, 2021.

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EXPLANATION  
BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL  
OF

A N A C T  
RELATING TO HEALTH AND SAFETY -- NEWBORN SCREENING PROGRAM

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1           This act would mandate the rules and regulations of the department of health pertaining to  
2 newborn screening to include at a minimum, newborn screening tests for all disorders and  
3 conditions listed in the current federal Recommended Uniform Screening Panel and include new  
4 disorders or conditions within two (2) years unless it is not practicable to include a new disorder.

5           This act would take effect on January 1, 2021.

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