

**First Regular Session
Seventieth General Assembly
STATE OF COLORADO**

PREAMENDED

*This Unofficial Version Includes Committee
Amendments Not Yet Adopted on Second Reading*

LLS NO. 15-0698.01 Kristen Forrestal x4217

HOUSE BILL 15-1281

HOUSE SPONSORSHIP

Primavera,

SENATE SPONSORSHIP

(None),

House Committees

Public Health Care & Human Services
Appropriations

Senate Committees

A BILL FOR AN ACT

101 **CONCERNING NEWBORN CONGENITAL HEART DEFECT SCREENING**
102 **THROUGH THE USE OF PULSE OXIMETRY.**

Bill Summary

(Note: This summary applies to this bill as introduced and does not reflect any amendments that may be subsequently adopted. If this bill passes third reading in the house of introduction, a bill summary that applies to the reengrossed version of this bill will be available at <http://www.leg.state.co.us/billsummaries>.)

The bill requires all newborns born in a birthing center that is below an elevation of 7,000 feet to be screened for congenital health defects using pulse oximetry prior to the infant leaving the health facility. The state board of health is required to promulgate rules for pulse oximetry at birthing centers at or above 7,000 feet when the board receives confirmation of appropriate calibration of pulse oximetry

Shading denotes HOUSE amendment. Double underlining denotes SENATE amendment.
*Capital letters indicate new material to be added to existing statute.
Dashes through the words indicate deletions from existing statute.*

instruments. The bill requires each birthing facility to report the results of the screening to the department of public health and environment and allows the state board of health to promulgate rules.

1 *Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Colorado:*

2 **SECTION 1. Legislative declaration.** (1) The general assembly
3 finds and declares that:

4 (a) Congenital heart defects are structural abnormalities of the
5 heart that are present at birth;

6 (b) Congenital heart defects range in severity from simple
7 problems, such as holes between chambers of the heart, to severe
8 malformations, such as the complete absence of one or more chambers or
9 valves;

10 (c) Some critical congenital heart defects can cause severe and
11 life-threatening symptoms, which require intervention within the first
12 days of life;

13 (d) Critical congenital heart defects are the number one killer of
14 infants with birth defects;

15 (e) According to the United States secretary of health and human
16 services' discretionary advisory committee on heritable disorders in
17 newborns and children, critical congenital heart disease affects
18 approximately 7 to 9 of every 1,000 live births in the United States and
19 Europe;

20 (f) Hospital costs for all individuals with congenital heart disease
21 can total \$2.6 billion per year;

22 (g) Current methods for detecting critical congenital heart defects
23 generally include prenatal ultrasound screening. These screenings alone
24 identify less than half of all cases. Critical congenital heart defect cases

1 are often missed during routine clinical exams performed prior to a
2 newborn's discharge from a birthing facility, but repeated clinical
3 examinations can identify many affected newborns.

4 (h) Pulse oximetry is a noninvasive test that estimates the
5 percentage of hemoglobin in blood that is saturated with oxygen and,
6 when performed on newborns in delivery centers, is effective at detecting
7 critical, life-threatening congenital heart defects that otherwise go
8 undetected by current screening methods; and

9 (i) Newborns with abnormal pulse oximetry results require
10 immediate confirmatory testing and intervention. Many newborn lives
11 could potentially be saved by earlier detection and treatment of critical
12 congenital heart defects if birthing facilities in Colorado were required to
13 perform this simple, noninvasive newborn screening in conjunction with
14 current critical congenital heart disease screening methods.

15 (2) Therefore, it is the intent of the general assembly to require
16 that birthing facilities perform critical congenital heart defect screening
17 using pulse oximetry.

18 **SECTION 2.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, **add** 25-4-1004.3 as
19 follows:

20 **25-4-1004.3. Newborn heart defect screening - pulse oximetry**
21 **- rules.** (1) (a) ON AND AFTER JANUARY 1, 2016, A BIRTHING FACILITY
22 THAT IS BELOW SEVEN THOUSAND FEET OF ELEVATION SHALL TEST ALL
23 INFANTS BORN IN THE [REDACTED] FACILITY FOR CRITICAL CONGENITAL HEART
24 DEFECTS USING PULSE OXIMETRY.

25 [REDACTED] (b) UPON RECEIPT OF THE CONFIRMATION OF THE APPROPRIATE
26 ALGORITHM FOR THE PULSE OXIMETRY READING FROM THE NEWBORN
27 SCREENING COUNCIL, THE NEWBORN SCREENING COUNCIL SHALL

1 EVALUATE WHETHER PULSE OXIMETRY TESTING IN BIRTHING FACILITIES AT
2 OR ABOVE SEVEN THOUSAND FEET ELEVATION MEETS THE CRITERIA IN
3 SECTION 25-4-1004. UPON CONFIRMATION FROM THE COUNCIL THAT THE
4 CRITERIA HAVE BEEN MET, THE STATE BOARD OF HEALTH SHALL
5 PROMULGATE RULES PURSUANT TO SECTION 25-4-1004 TO ENSURE THAT
6 ALL NEWBORNS BORN AT OR ABOVE SEVEN THOUSAND FEET ELEVATION
7 ARE SCREENED FOR CRITICAL CONGENITAL HEALTH DEFECTS.

8 (c) THE CRITICAL CONGENITAL HEART DEFECT SCREENING USING
9 PULSE OXIMETRY MUST BE PERFORMED ON EVERY NEWBORN PRIOR TO THE
10 NEWBORN'S RELEASE FROM THE BIRTHING FACILITY.

11 (2) EACH BIRTHING FACILITY SHALL REPORT THE RESULTS OF THE
12 PULSE OXIMETRY SCREENINGS TO THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH
13 AND ENVIRONMENT. THE STATE BOARD OF HEALTH MAY PROMULGATE
14 RULES FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THIS SECTION.

15 (3) AS USED IN THIS SECTION, A "BIRTHING FACILITY" MEANS A
16 GENERAL HOSPITAL OR BIRTHING CENTER LICENSED OR CERTIFIED
17 PURSUANT TO SECTION 25-1.5-103 AND THAT PROVIDES BIRTHING AND
18 NEWBORN CARE SERVICES.

19 **SECTION 3. Act subject to petition - effective date.** This act
20 takes effect at 12:01 a.m. on the day following the expiration of the
21 ninety-day period after final adjournment of the general assembly (August
22 5, 2015, if adjournment sine die is on May 6, 2015); except that, if a
23 referendum petition is filed pursuant to section 1 (3) of article V of the
24 state constitution against this act or an item, section, or part of this act
25 within such period, then the act, item, section, or part will not take effect
26 unless approved by the people at the general election to be held in

- 1 November 2016 and, in such case, will take effect on the date of the
- 2 official declaration of the vote thereon by the governor.