

1 State of Arkansas
2 89th General Assembly
3 Regular Session, 2013
4

A Bill

SENATE BILL 423

5 By: Senators B. Pierce, K. Ingram
6

For An Act To Be Entitled

8 AN ACT TO PROVIDE FOR THE EXPANSION OF TESTING OF
9 NEWBORN INFANTS FOR GENETIC DISORDERS; AND FOR OTHER
10 PURPOSES.
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Subtitle

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13 TO PROVIDE FOR THE EXPANSION OF TESTING
14 OF NEWBORN INFANTS FOR GENETIC DISORDERS.
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18 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:
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20 SECTION 1. Arkansas Code § 20-15-302(a) and (b), concerning testing of
21 newborns, is amended to read as follows:

22 20-15-302. Testing of newborns.

23 (a)(1)(A) All newborn infants shall be tested for phenylketonuria,
24 hypothyroidism, galactosemia, cystic fibrosis, and sickle-cell anemia.

25 (B) In addition, if reliable and efficient testing
26 techniques are available, all newborn infants shall be tested for other
27 genetic disorders ~~of metabolism~~ by employing procedures approved by the State
28 Board of Health.

29 (2)(A) Medicaid shall reimburse the hospital that performs the
30 tests required under subdivision (a)(1) of this section for the cost of the
31 tests.

32 (B) The reimbursement shall be in addition to the
33 hospital's per diem payments for the newborn infant.

34 (b) All positive test results shall be sent immediately to the
35 ~~Division of Health of the Department of Health and Human Services~~ Department
36 of Health.



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2 SECTION 2. Arkansas Code § 23-79-129(a)(2), concerning insurance
3 coverage for newborn infants, is amended to read as follows:

4 (2) The coverage of newborn children shall be the same as is
5 provided for other members of the insured's family and shall include:

6 (A) Coverage for illness, injury, congenital defects, and
7 premature birth;

8 (B) Coverage for tests for hypothyroidism,
9 phenylketonuria, galactosemia, sickle-cell anemia, and all other genetic
10 disorders ~~of metabolism~~ for which screening is performed by or for the State
11 of Arkansas, as well as any testing of newborn infants hereafter mandated by
12 law; and

13 (C) Subject to minimum benefits required by § 23-99-404,
14 coverage to pay for routine nursery care and pediatric charges for a well
15 newborn child for up to five (5) full days in a hospital nursery or until the
16 mother is discharged from the hospital following the birth of the child,
17 whichever is the lesser period of time.

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20 **APPROVED: 03/18/2013**
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