

Stricken language would be deleted from and underlined language would be added to the law as it existed prior to this session of the General Assembly.

1 State of Arkansas  
2 84th General Assembly  
3 Regular Session, 2003

# A Bill

SENATE BILL 610

4  
5 By: Senator Gullett  
6 By: Representative Dees

## For An Act To Be Entitled

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10 AN ACT TO INCREASE TESTING FOR PROBLEMS WITH  
11 METABOLISM IN NEWBORNS; TO IMPROVE HEALTH  
12 COVERAGE FOR NEWBORNS WITH METABOLIC DISORDERS;  
13 AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

## Subtitle

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16 AN ACT TO INCREASE TESTING FOR PROBLEMS  
17 WITH METABOLISM IN NEWBORNS; TO IMPROVE  
18 HEALTH COVERAGE FOR NEWBORNS WITH  
19 METABOLIC DISORDERS.

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22 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:

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24 SECTION 1. Arkansas Code § 20-15-302(a), concerning testing of  
25 newborns, is amended to read as follows:

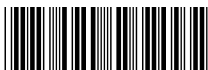
26 (a)(1) All newborn infants shall be tested for phenylketonuria,  
27 hypothyroidism, ~~and galactosemia, and sickle-cell anemia.~~ ~~In addition, all~~  
28 ~~non-Caucasian newborn infants shall be tested for sickle-cell anemia, by such~~  
29 ~~procedures and in such manner as is prescribed by the Department of Health.~~

30 (2) In addition, all newborn infants shall be tested for other  
31 genetic disorders of metabolism and employing procedures approved by the  
32 Department of Health.

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34 SECTION 2. Arkansas Code § 20-15-304 is amended to read as follows:

35 20-15-304. Administration by Department of Health.

36 It shall be the duty of the Department of Health:



- 1 (1) To enforce the provisions of this subchapter;
- 2 (2) To prescribe the tests that may be administered in
- 3 compliance with this subchapter;
- 4 (3) To promulgate regulations in conjunction with the Insurance
- 5 Commissioner establishing:
  - 6 (A) What persons and institutions shall be required to
  - 7 obtain specimens from newborn infants in compliance with this subchapter;
  - 8 (B) The amount to be charged by the central laboratory for
  - 9 processing the specimens; and
  - 10 (C) The method of billing the charges to the persons and
  - 11 institutions;
  - 12 (4) To furnish copies of this subchapter and the rules
  - 13 promulgated pursuant to it to physicians, hospitals, or other institutions or
  - 14 persons required by its regulations to have tests administered to newborn
  - 15 infants;
  - 16 (5) To establish a central laboratory and to equip, staff, and
  - 17 operate the laboratory for the purpose of receiving specimens from
  - 18 physicians, hospitals, and institutions and to conduct tests and report
  - 19 findings resulting from the tests;
  - 20 (6) To monitor positive test results and to assist in treatment
  - 21 and care of affected infants, such follow-up procedures to begin no later
  - 22 than ten (10) days from the time a specimen is diagnosed as positive; and
  - 23 (7) To disseminate information and advice to the public
  - 24 concerning the dangers and effects of phenylketonuria, hypothyroidism,
  - 25 galactosemia, and sickle-cell anemia, and all other disorders of metabolism
  - 26 for which screening is performed by or for the State of Arkansas.

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28 SECTION 3. Arkansas Code § 23-79-129(a), concerning health

29 insurance coverage of newborn infants, is amended to read as follows:

30 (a)(1) Every accident and health insurance policy, contract,

31 certificate, or health care plan sold, delivered, issued, or offered for

32 sale, issue, or delivery in this state, other than coverage limited to

33 expenses from accidents or specified diseases, whether an individual or group

34 policy, contract, certificate, or plan, which covers the insured and members

35 of the insured's family, shall include coverage for newborn infant children

36 by the insured from the moment of birth.

1           (2) The coverage of newborn children shall be the same as is provided  
2 for other members of the insured's family and shall include coverage for  
3 illness, injury, congenital defects, premature birth, and tests for  
4 hypothyroidism, phenylketonuria, ~~and galactosemia, and, in the case of non-~~  
5 ~~Caucasian newborn infants, tests for~~ sickle-cell anemia, and all other  
6 disorders of metabolism for which screening is performed by or for the State  
7 of Arkansas, as well as any testing of newborn infants hereafter mandated by  
8 law, and subject to minimum benefits required by § 23-99-404, shall also  
9 include coverage to pay for routine nursery care and pediatric charges for a  
10 well newborn child for up to five (5) full days in a hospital nursery or  
11 until the mother is discharged from the hospital following the birth of the  
12 child, whichever is the lesser period of time.

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