

State of Arkansas

76th General Assembly

Regular Session, 1987

SENATE BILL 581

By: Senators Brandon and Jewell

"AN ACT TO AMEND SECTION 1 AND SUBSECTION (7) OF SECTION 2 OF ACT 192 OF 1967 AS AMENDED, [ARK. STATS. 82-625 AND 82-626 (7)] TO REQUIRE TESTING OF NON-CAUCASIAN NEWBORN INFANTS FOR SICKLE-CELL ANEMIA; TO AMEND SUBSECTION (1) OF SECTION 1 OF ACT 298 OF 1975 AS AMENDED, [ARK. STATS. 66-3248 (1)] TO REQUIRE HOSPITAL OR MEDICAL SERVICE INSURANCE POLICY, CONTRACT OR HEALTH CARE PLAN COVERING A FAMILY TO INCLUDE COVERAGE FOR TESTING OF NON-CAUCASIAN NEWBORN INFANTS FOR SICKLE-CELL ANEMIA; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES."

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

SECTION 1. Section 1 of Act 192 of 1967, as amended, the same being Arkansas Statutes 82-625, is hereby amended to read as follows:

"Section 1. All newborn infants shall be tested for phenylketonuria and hypothyroidism and in addition, all non-caucasian newborn infants shall be tested for sickle-cell anemia, by such procedures and in such manner as prescribed by the State Department of Health. All positive test results shall be sent immediately to the State Department of Health."

SECTION 2. Subsection (7) of Section 2 of Act 192 of 1967, as amended, the same being Arkansas Statutes 82-626(7), is hereby amended to read as follows:

"(7) To disseminate information and advice to the public concerning the dangers and effects of phenylketonuria, hypothyroidism and sickle-cell anemia."

SECTION 3. Subsection (1) of Section 1 of Act 298 of 1975, as amended, the same being Arkansas Statutes 66-3248 (1), is hereby amended to read as

follows:

"(1) Every hospital or medical service insurance policy, contract or health care plan, sold, delivered, issued or offered for sale, issue or delivery in this State, whether an individual or group policy, contract or plan, which covers the insured and members of the insured's family, shall include coverage for newborn infant children by the insured from the moment of birth. The coverage of newborn children shall be the same as is provided for other members of the insured's family and shall include coverage for illness, injury, congenital defects, premature birth, and tests for hypothyroidism and phenylketonuria, and in the case of non-caucasian newborn infants, tests for sickle-cell anemia, as well as any testing of newborn infants hereafter mandated by law and shall also include coverage to pay for routine nursery care and pediatric charges for a well newly born child for up to five (5) full days in a hospital nursery, or until the mother is discharged from the hospital following the birth of the child, whichever is less."

SECTION 4. All laws and parts of laws in conflict with this Act are hereby repealed.

