



Senate Public Health and Welfare Committee

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Summary HB 1420 PN 2557

This legislation creates the Newborn Child Pulse Oximetry Screening Act and requires the Department of Health to ensure that all birthing facilities utilize pulse oximetry to screen newborns for congenital heart defects.

The Department may identify an alternative test if one is developed that meets medical guideline consensus and recommendations issued by national medical organizations advocating on behalf of cardiovascular care. Approval shall be done by publication in the Pennsylvania Bulletin and after a 30-day public comment period.

Exceptions are permitted if a parent or guardian dissents on the ground that the test conflicts with a religious belief or practice.

Effective Date

This act shall take effect in 90 days.

Amendment A06898

Adds a definition of health care practitioner and ensures that births occurring outside a birthing facility and attended by midwives are covered under the act. Makes other technical changes.