

Senate Public Health and ____Welfare Committee____

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Senator Patricia H. Vance

Chairman

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Summary SB 29 PN 688

Coming from the recommendations of the Task Force on Child Protection, this legislation amends Title 23, Domestic Relations. It requires health care providers to immediately make a report to the county agency if the provider is involved in the delivery or care of a newborn affected by:

- The mother's illegal substance abuse
- Withdrawal symptoms resulting from prenatal exposure or
- A fetal alcohol spectrum disorder

Once a report is made, the county agency is required to perform either a safety or risk assessment or both and determine whether child protective services or general protective services are warranted. The county, upon receipt of the report, is further required to:

- Contact the parents within 24 hrs.
- Physically see the newborn within 48 hrs.
- If necessary, develop a safety plan with the parents to ensure the immediate safety of the newborn and secure medical services
- Provide or arrange for services to ensure the newborn is provided with proper parental care, control and supervision.

Amendment A03703

Changes the term newborn to child under the age of one or child to align with federal requirements. Adds a definition of safety assessment that was overlooked in the task force report and renumbers the county requirements upon the receipt of a report so that they are prioritized with the immediate safety of the child being most important.

Effective Date

This act shall take effect in 60 days.