



Senate Public Health and Welfare Committee

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Summary HB 59 PN 51

This legislation creates the Hepatitis C Screening Act which requires that all individuals born between the years 1945 and 1965 be offered a Hepatitis C screening or diagnostic test if receiving:

- Inpatient services in a hospital or
- Primary care services in
 - An outpatient department of a hospital,
 - A health care facility, or
 - A physician's office

If an individual agrees to the screening test and the test is reactive, the health care provider shall offer either follow-up care or a referral for follow-up care. Follow-up care shall include a hepatitis C diagnostic test.

Exceptions

A health care practitioner does not have to offer the test if it is reasonably believed that the individual:

- Is being treated for a life-threatening emergency,
- Has previously been offered or been the subject of a hepatitis screening test unless otherwise indicated, or
- Lacks capacity to consent to a screening test

This act does not affect the scope of practice of any health care practitioner or their professional obligations.

The Department of Health is responsible for ensuring the offering of the hepatitis C screening test is culturally and linguistically appropriate.

Effective Date

This act shall take effect in 60 days.