
OLR Bill Analysis

HB 6821

AN ACT CONCERNING CYTOMEGALOVIRUS.

SUMMARY

This bill requires all health care institutions caring for newborn infants to test each newborn for cytomegalovirus (CMV), instead of only those who fail a newborn hearing screening, as under current law. By law, this testing must be done as soon as it is medically appropriate, unless the parents object on religious grounds.

Like existing law that requires these institutions to test newborn infants for cystic fibrosis and critical congenital heart disease, the test for CMV is not part of the state's newborn screening program for genetic and metabolic disorders.

The bill also requires the Department of Public Health, by January 1, 2024, to distribute educational materials on CMV symptoms, diagnosis, and treatment to the following:

1. each gynecologist, obstetrician, and pediatrician in the state to provide to their pregnant and postpartum patients and
2. the Office of Early Childhood to distribute to child care centers and group and family child care homes to provide to parents or guardians of newborns they care for.

EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon passage, except the provision on CMV newborn screening takes effect on October 1, 2023.

BACKGROUND

Cytomegalovirus

CMV is a type of herpesvirus, which places it in a group with chickenpox, shingles, and mononucleosis. Although usually harmless in

healthy adults and children, CMV in newborns can lead to hearing loss or developmental disabilities. Transmission from mother to fetus occurs during pregnancy.

COMMITTEE ACTION

Public Health Committee

Joint Favorable

Yea 38 Nay 0 (03/10/2023)