

House Bill 2693

Sponsored by Representatives THOMPSON, GREENLICK; Representative KENY-GUYER

SUMMARY

The following summary is not prepared by the sponsors of the measure and is not a part of the body thereof subject to consideration by the Legislative Assembly. It is an editor's brief statement of the essential features of the measure **as introduced**.

Directs Oregon Health Authority to adopt rules requiring all infants born at birthing facilities located in this state to be screened for congenital heart defects.

Declares emergency, effective on passage.

A BILL FOR AN ACT

1
2 Relating to infant screening; and declaring an emergency.

3 Whereas congenital heart defects are structural abnormalities of the heart that are present at
4 birth; and

5 Whereas congenital heart defects range in severity from simple problems, such as holes between
6 chambers of the heart, to severe malformations, such as the complete absence of one or more
7 chambers or valves of the heart; and

8 Whereas congenital heart defects can cause severe and life-threatening symptoms that require
9 intervention within the first days of life; and

10 Whereas congenital heart defects cause more fatalities than any other birth defect; and

11 Whereas according to the United States Secretary of Health and Human Services' Advisory
12 Committee on Heritable Disorders in Newborns and Children, congenital heart defects affect ap-
13 proximately seven to nine of every 1,000 live births in the United States and Europe; and

14 Whereas hospital costs for all individuals with congenital heart defects total approximately \$2.6
15 billion per year; and

16 Whereas current methods for detecting congenital heart defects generally include prenatal
17 ultrasound screening; and

18 Whereas these screenings, alone, identify less than half of all cases of congenital heart defects;
19 and

20 Whereas cases involving congenital heart defects are often missed during routine clinical exams
21 performed prior to a newborn being discharged from a birthing facility; and

22 Whereas pulse oximetry is a noninvasive test that estimates the percentage of hemoglobin in
23 blood that is saturated with oxygen; and

24 Whereas pulse oximetry, when performed on a newborn, is effective at detecting severe and
25 life-threatening congenital heart defects that otherwise would go undetected; and

26 Whereas many lives would be saved by early detection and treatment of congenital heart de-
27 fects; now, therefore,

28 **Be It Enacted by the People of the State of Oregon:**

29 **SECTION 1.** (1) **As used in this section, "birthing facility" means a health care facility,**
30 **as defined in ORS 442.015, that provides services related to the delivery of newborns.**

31 **(2) The Oregon Health Authority shall adopt rules requiring birthing facilities located in**

NOTE: Matter in **boldfaced** type in an amended section is new; matter [*italic and bracketed*] is existing law to be omitted.
New sections are in **boldfaced** type.

1 this state to perform a pulse oximetry screening on each newborn delivered at the birthing
2 facility before discharging the newborn.

3 **SECTION 2.** The Oregon Health Authority shall adopt rules described in section 1 of this
4 2013 Act no later than January 1, 2014.

5 **SECTION 3.** This 2013 Act being necessary for the immediate preservation of the public
6 peace, health and safety, an emergency is declared to exist, and this 2013 Act takes effect
7 on its passage.

8
