130th MAINE LEGISLATURE

SECOND REGULAR SESSION-2022

Legislative Document No. 1747

S.P. 603 In Senate, December 2, 2021

An Act To Require Screening for Cytomegalovirus in Certain Newborn Infants

Approved for introduction by a majority of the Legislative Council pursuant to Joint Rule 203.

Received by the Secretary of the Senate on November 30, 2021. Referred to the Committee on Health and Human Services pursuant to Joint Rule 308.2 and ordered printed.

DAREK M. GRANT
Secretary of the Senate

Presented by Senator BREEN of Cumberland.
Cosponsored by Representative MILLETT of Waterford and Senators: CARNEY of Cumberland, CLAXTON of Androscoggin, Representatives: GRIFFIN of Levant, MILLETT of Cape Elizabeth.
Be it enacted by the People of the State of Maine as follows:

Sec. 1.  22 MRSA §1534 is enacted to read:

§1534.  Cytomegalovirus public education and testing

1. Required testing. If a newborn infant fails 2 hearing tests or has other risk factors for cytomegalovirus, a hospital, birthing center or other birthing service shall test the newborn infant, or cause the infant to be tested, for the presence of cytomegalovirus by means of a saliva or urine sample before hospital discharge or, if the infant was born outside a clinical setting, not later than the 21st day after the date of birth.

2. Religious objection exemption. The requirement under this section that a newborn infant must be tested for the presence of cytomegalovirus does not apply to a newborn infant if the parents of that infant object on the grounds that a test conflicts with their religious tenets and practices.

3. Report. A hospital, birthing center or other birthing service that tests or causes to be tested a newborn infant pursuant to this section shall report to the department aggregate data on the testing, including the number of infants born, the number tested for cytomegalovirus, the results of the screening and testing and the type of screening sample used.

4. Public education. The department shall provide public educational resources to pregnant women and women who may become pregnant that include information regarding the incidence of cytomegalovirus, the transmission of cytomegalovirus during and before pregnancy, birth defects caused by congenital cytomegalovirus, methods of diagnosing congenital cytomegalovirus, available preventive measures and resources for the family of an infant born with congenital cytomegalovirus. The department may solicit and accept the assistance of relevant medical associations or community resources to develop, promote and distribute the public educational resources.

5. Rulemaking. The department may adopt rules to implement this section. Rules adopted pursuant to this subsection are routine technical rules as defined in Title 5, chapter 375, subchapter 2-A.

SUMMARY

This bill requires newborn infants who do not pass 2 hearing tests or who have other risk factors to be tested for cytomegalovirus. It also requires the Department of Health and Human Services to provide information to pregnant women and women who may become pregnant on the risks of cytomegalovirus.