



## WISCONSIN LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL AMENDMENT MEMO

**2009 Senate Bill 323**

**Senate Substitute  
Amendment 1 as Amended by  
Senate Amendment 1**

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2009 Senate Bill 323 relates to requiring newborn hearing screening. Senate Substitute Amendment 1, as amended by Senate Amendment 1 contains the following provisions:

- Requires the physician, licensed nurse-midwife, or certified professional midwife who attended the birth to ensure that the infant is screened for hearing loss before being discharged from the hospital, or within 30 days of birth if the infant was not born in a hospital.
- Requires the Department of Health Services (DHS) to provide referrals of infants screened under the newborn hearing screening program, to programs for hearing loss. This provision does not apply if the parents or legal guardian of the child object to a screen for hearing loss on the grounds that the test conflicts with their religious tenets and practices. Further, no hearing screening may be performed unless the parents or legal guardian are fully informed of the purposes of a screen for hearing loss and have been given reasonable opportunity to object to the screen.
- Requires a physician, nurse-midwife, or certified professional midwife who must ensure that the infant is screened for hearing loss to do all of the following:
  - Ensure that the parents or legal guardian are advised of the screening results.
  - If the infant has an abnormal hearing screening result, ensure the parents or legal guardian is provided information on available resources for diagnosis and treatment of hearing loss.
  - Send to the State Laboratory of Hygiene screening results and the infant's risk factors to contract a hearing loss. The state lab is required to send this information to DHS.

- Provides, with certain exceptions, that no information obtained from the parents or legal guardian may be disclosed.
- Amends a provision in current law that requires the state lab to impose a fee for tests performed on newborn infants for congenital disorders, to include as part of the fee, the costs of administering the newborn hearing screening program.
- Amends the appropriation in current law which provides funding for diagnostic services, special dietary treatment, and follow-up counseling for congenital disorders and periodic evaluation of infant screening programs, to include funding for newborn hearing screening, and referrals for follow-up services for hearing loss, as required under the substitute amendment.

**Legislative History**

On March 16, 2010, the Senate Committee on Health, Health Insurance, Privacy, Property Tax Relief, and Revenue adopted Senate Amendment 1 to Senate Substitute Amendment 1, and Senate Substitute Amendment 1, as amended, on votes of Ayes, 7; Noes, 0; and recommended passage of the bill, as amended, on a vote of Ayes, 6; Noes, 1.

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