



HOUSE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

FISCAL NOTE

SENATE BILL NO. 983

PRINTERS NO. 2000

PRIME SPONSOR: DiSanto

COST / (SAVINGS)

FUND	FY 2020/21	FY 2021/22
General Fund	\$0	\$0

SUMMARY: Senate Bill 983, Printer's Number 2000, amends the Newborn Child Testing Act. This legislation is effective in 180 days.

ANALYSIS: This legislation amends the Newborn Child Testing Act to provide for comprehensive newborn screening and follow-up services for every recommended disorder included in two separate mandatory panels. The Department of Health (DOH) maintains responsibility for the first panel of 10 disorders as required under current law. Birthing facilities, certified-nurse midwives, unlicensed midwives, and health care practitioners shall be required to order screening tests for the 24 disorders previously included on the supplemental (optional) panel.

SB 983 defines "birthing facilities" to mean an inpatient or ambulatory health care facility licensed by the department that provides birthing and newborn care services. The legislation redefines "board" to mean the Newborn Screening and Follow-up Technical Advisory Board.

The bill directs DOH to establish a program of follow-up services which includes case management, referrals, confirmatory testing, assessment and diagnosis of newborn children with abnormal, inconclusive or unacceptable screening results up to a child's first year of life.

DOH, with the approval of the Newborn Screening and Follow-up Technical Advisory Board, is required to transmit notice to the Legislative Reference Bureau for publication in the Pennsylvania Bulletin, changes to the list of disorders screened on either mandatory panel. Prior to making any changes, the board and DOH must publish a notice in the Pennsylvania Bulletin establishing a public comment period of at least 30 days.

The membership of the Newborn Screening and Follow-up Technical Advisory Board must include at least: an ethicist; three pediatric physicians; a neonatologist; a genetic counselor; a hematologist; two clinical geneticists; a nurse midwife; a parent advocate; and a representative recommended by the Hospital Association of Pennsylvania.

SB 983 provides that diseases and conditions mandated for screening and follow-up services shall include: diseases on the combined panels of current disorders; diseases added by the board; and conditions listed in the federal Recommended Uniform Screening Panel by the U.S. Department of Health & Human Services.

FISCAL IMPACT: Enactment of this legislation will have no impact on Commonwealth funds. The list of mandatory screenings and follow-up services required to be provided by DOH remains unchanged. In addition, there is no fiscal impact on the Medical Assistance program because the Department of Human Services already pays for the 24 screenings that are currently optional but will become mandatory.

PREPARED BY: Ann Bertolino
House Appropriations Committee (R)

DATE: November 19, 2020

Estimates are calculated using the best information available. Actual costs and revenue impact incurred may vary from estimates.