

SENATE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE FISCAL NOTE

BILL NO. Senate Bill 709

PRINTER NO. 812

AMOUNT

No Fiscal Impact

FUND

General Fund

DATE INTRODUCED

May 25, 2021

PRIME SPONSOR

Senator Tomlinson

DESCRIPTION AND PURPOSE OF BILL

Senate Bill 709 creates the Cytomegalovirus Education and Newborn Screening Act.

The bill requires the Department of Health (department) to make information regarding Cytomegalovirus (CMV) available on the department’s publicly accessible internet website, which shall include:

- Up-to-date, evidence-based information about CMV that has been reviewed by medical experts and national CMV organizations that includes the following:
 - The incidence of CMV;
 - The transmission of CMV to pregnant women and women who may become pregnant;
 - Birth defects caused by congenital CMV;
 - Methods of diagnosing congenital CMV;
 - Available preventive measures;
 - Treatment options; and
 - Any other information the department deems necessary.
- Contact information regarding support programs and services, including the following:
 - Information hotlines specific to CMV;
 - Relevant resource centers or clearinghouses;
 - National and local CMV organizations; and
 - Educational and support programs.

A health care practitioner, certified-nurse midwife or direct-entry midwife that assumes responsibility for the prenatal care of a pregnant woman shall provide the educational information regarding CMV.

In addition, the department shall require a birth facility, health care practitioner, certified-nurse midwife or direct-entry midwife that assumes care of a newborn child to screen the newborn child for CMV before the newborn child is 21 days of age if:

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- The newborn child fails the newborn hearing screening under the Infant Hearing Education, Assessment, Reporting and Referral (IHEARR) Act; or
- The parent or guardian of a newborn child requests that the newborn child be tested for CMV.

The screening requirements may not be performed if a parent or guardian of the newborn child dissents on the grounds that the screening conflicts with a religious belief or practice. The department is directed to promulgate regulations necessary to implement the provisions of this act.

This act shall take effect in 90 days.

FISCAL IMPACT:

Senate Bill 709 will have no fiscal impact to the Commonwealth. As part of the Commonwealth's Medicaid Early Periodic Screening, Diagnostic, and Treatment (EPSDT) Periodicity Schedule, all newborns are to receive an initial hearing screening before being discharged from the hospital. Cytomegalovirus screenings are already included on the Medical Assistance fee schedule. Therefore, no additional costs are expected to be incurred through Medicaid. However, private insurers may see an increase in the costs related to the newborns covered by private insurance.

The Department of Health can develop and distribute informational material and promulgate regulations within existing staffing and budget levels.