



Ninety-Seventh Legislature - First Session - 2001
Introducer's Statement of Intent
LB 235

Chairperson: Senator Jim Jensen
Committee: Health and Human Services
Date of Hearing: January 18, 2001

The following constitutes the reasons for this bill and the purposes which are sought to be accomplished thereby:

The bill would expand the newborn screening panel to include MCAD (Medium Chain Acyl Co-A Dehydrogenase deficiency). The department can currently add an additional screening to the panel through the rules and regulations process. Without the additional changes in the bill, adding the additional screening would increase the costs for the lab work. This new addition would capture 2 to 3 infants per year who have MCAD. This is the same prevalence rate that occurs with PKU.

The bill would allow the Department of Health and Human Services to contract with one laboratory to do all the newborn screenings. The department will seek competitive bids through an RFP process. MCAD requires specialized equipment in the lab. Laboratories that currently conduct this screening can do so at a reduced cost due to the volume of tests it receives. Under this process the department would be able to build quality assurance standards into the contract.

The final change would alter the method by which the program is funded. Currently the laboratory costs are paid by the parents or by the insurance carrier. The program receives its primary support through general fund appropriations and Federal Title V dollars. The bill would allow the department to make this a fee-based program. Currently, laboratory charges alone for newborn screenings cost approximately \$50. The bill would reduce the cost of the lab work and assess a fee (paid by the infant's family or 3rd party payer). This will allow the overall cost (includes lab work and program administration) to be reduced to approximately \$45.

Principal Introducer:

Senator Dennis M. Byars