

REFERENCE TITLE: newborn screening program

State of Arizona
Senate
Fifty-seventh Legislature
First Regular Session
2025

SB 1344

Introduced by
Senator Shope

AN ACT

AMENDING SECTION 36-694, ARIZONA REVISED STATUTES; RELATING TO MATERNAL
AND CHILD HEALTH.

(TEXT OF BILL BEGINS ON NEXT PAGE)

1 Be it enacted by the Legislature of the State of Arizona:

2 Section 1. Section 36-694, Arizona Revised Statutes, is amended to
3 read:

4 36-694. Report of blood tests; newborn screening program;
5 committee; fee; definitions

6 A. When a birth or stillbirth is reported, the attending physician
7 or other person required to report the birth shall state on the
8 certificate whether a blood test for syphilis was made on a specimen of
9 blood taken from the woman who bore the child or from the umbilical cord
10 at delivery, as required by section 36-693, and the approximate date when
11 the specimen was taken.

12 B. When a birth is reported, the attending physician or person who
13 is required to report the birth shall order or cause to be ordered tests
14 for certain congenital disorders, including hearing disorders. The
15 results of tests for these disorders must be reported to the department of
16 health services. The department of health services shall specify in rule
17 the disorders, the process for collecting and submitting specimens and the
18 reporting requirements for test results.

19 C. When a hearing test is performed on a newborn, the initial
20 hearing test results and any subsequent hearing test results must be
21 reported to the department of health services as prescribed by department
22 rules.

23 D. The director of the department of health services shall
24 establish a newborn screening program within the department to ensure that
25 the testing for congenital disorders and the reporting of hearing test
26 results required by this section are conducted in an effective and
27 efficient manner. The newborn screening program shall include all
28 congenital disorders that are included on the recommended uniform
29 screening panel adopted by the secretary of the United States department
30 of health and human services for both core and secondary conditions.
31 ~~Beginning January 1, 2022~~ EXCEPT AS OTHERWISE PROVIDED IN SUBSECTION E OF
32 THIS SECTION, disorders that are added to the core and secondary
33 conditions list of the recommended uniform screening panel shall be added
34 to this state's newborn screening panel within two years after their
35 addition to the recommended uniform screening panel. The newborn
36 screening program shall include an education program for the general
37 public, the medical community, parents and professional groups. The
38 director shall designate the state laboratory as the only testing facility
39 for the program, except that the director may designate other laboratory
40 testing facilities for conditions or tests added to the newborn screening
41 program on or after July 24, 2014. If the director designates another
42 laboratory testing facility for any condition or test, the director shall
43 require the facility to follow all of the privacy and sample destruction
44 time frames that are required of the state laboratory.

1 E. THE TWO-YEAR TIME FRAME TO ADD DISORDERS TO THIS STATE'S NEWBORN
2 SCREENING PANEL DOES NOT APPLY IF BOTH:

3 1. THERE IS NO COMMERCIALY AVAILABLE TEST METHOD APPROVED BY THE
4 UNITED STATES FOOD AND DRUG ADMINISTRATION.

5 2. A LABORATORY-DEVELOPED TEST METHOD IS USED TO IDENTIFY THE
6 DISORDER AND THE LABORATORY-DEVELOPED TEST METHOD REQUIRES UNITED STATES
7 FOOD AND DRUG ADMINISTRATION PREMARKET REVIEW AND APPROVAL.

8 ~~F.~~ F. The newborn screening program shall establish and maintain a
9 central database of newborns and infants who are tested for hearing loss
10 and congenital disorders that includes information required in rule. Test
11 results are confidential subject to the disclosure provisions of sections
12 12-2801 and 12-2802.

13 ~~F.~~ G. If tests conducted pursuant to this section indicate that a
14 newborn or infant may have a hearing loss or a congenital disorder, the
15 screening program shall provide follow-up services to encourage the
16 child's family to access evaluation services, specialty care and early
17 intervention services.

18 ~~G.~~ H. The director shall establish a committee to provide
19 recommendations and advice to the department on at least an annual basis
20 regarding newborn screening best practices and emerging trends.

21 ~~H.~~ I. The director may establish by rule a fee that the department
22 may collect for operating the newborn screening program, including
23 contracting for the testing pursuant to this section. The director shall
24 present any change to the fee for the newborn screening program to the
25 joint legislative budget committee for review.

26 ~~I.~~ J. Not later than sixty days after the department adjusts the
27 newborn screening program fee established pursuant to subsection ~~H~~ I of
28 this section:

29 1. Each health insurer that is subject to title 20 shall update its
30 hospital rates that include newborn screening to reflect the increase.

31 2. For the Arizona health care cost containment system and
32 contractors acting pursuant to chapter 29, article 1 of this title that
33 are not subject to title 20, the Arizona health care cost containment
34 system shall update its hospital rates that include newborn screening to
35 reflect the increase.

36 ~~J.~~ K. For the purposes of this section:

37 1. "Infant" means a child who is twenty-nine days of age to two
38 years of age.

39 2. "Newborn" means a child who is not more than twenty-eight days
40 of age.