

By Representative Murman

1 A bill to be entitled
2 An act relating to infant safety; amending s.
3 395.1023, F.S.; requiring each hospital to
4 establish a policy regarding car seats for
5 newborn babies upon their release from the
6 facility; providing an effective date.

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8 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

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10 Section 1. Section 395.1023, Florida Statutes, is
11 amended to read:

12 395.1023 Hospital protocol for child abuse and neglect
13 cases; release of newborn infants;duties.--Each licensed
14 facility shall adopt a protocol that, at a minimum, requires
15 the facility to:

16 (1)(a) Incorporate a facility policy that every staff
17 member has an affirmative duty to report, pursuant to chapter
18 415, any actual or suspected case of child abuse or neglect;
19 and

20 (b)(2) In any case involving suspected child abuse or
21 neglect, designate, at the request of the department, a staff
22 physician to act as a liaison between the hospital and the
23 department office which is investigating the suspected abuse
24 or neglect, and the child protection team, as defined in s.
25 415.503, when the case is referred to such a team.

26 (2) Incorporate a facility policy to require that, any
27 time a newborn infant who is being released from the facility
28 is to be transported from the facility in a private motor
29 vehicle, a staff person from the facility must accompany the
30 infant to the motor vehicle, ensure that an appropriate child
31 safety seat that meets the requirements of s. 316.613 is

1 installed in the vehicle for the infant, and ensure that the
2 infant is properly restrained in the seat.
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4 Each general hospital and appropriate specialty hospital shall
5 comply with the provisions of this section and shall notify
6 the agency and the department of its compliance by sending a
7 copy of its policy to the agency and the department as
8 required by rule. The failure by a general hospital or
9 appropriate specialty hospital to comply shall be punished by
10 a fine not exceeding \$1,000, to be fixed, imposed, and
11 collected by the agency. Each day in violation is considered
12 a separate offense.

13 Section 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 1997.

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16 SENATE SUMMARY

17 Requires hospitals to establish a policy requiring a
18 staff person to accompany a newborn baby who is being
19 discharged to be transported in a motor vehicle, and
20 requiring the staff person to ensure that the infant is
21 properly situated in a child safety seat.
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