

By the Committee on Health, Aging and Long-Term Care; and  
Senator Sullivan

317-2019-02

1                                   A bill to be entitled  
2           An act relating to "Shaken-Baby Syndrome";  
3           requiring hospitals and birth centers to give  
4           to new parents informational brochures  
5           concerning the dangers of shaking babies and  
6           young children; requiring the Department of  
7           Health to prepare the brochures; prescribing  
8           the contents of the brochures; providing that a  
9           cause of action against specified persons and  
10          entities does not accrue as a result of failure  
11          to give this information; providing for a fine  
12          for violations; providing an effective date.

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

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16           Section 1. Dangers of shaking infants and young  
17 children; hospitals and birth centers required to distribute  
18 brochures.--

19           (1) Every hospital that has maternity and newborn  
20 services and every birth center shall provide to the parents  
21 of a newborn, before they take their newborn home from the  
22 hospital or birth center, information concerning the dangers  
23 of shaking infants and young children.

24           (2) The Department of Health shall prepare a brochure  
25 that describes the dangers of shaking infants and young  
26 children. The description must include information concerning  
27 the grave effects of shaking infants and young children,  
28 information concerning appropriate ways to manage the causes  
29 that can lead a person to shake infants and young children,  
30 and a discussion of ways to reduce the risks that can lead a  
31 person to shake infants and young children.

1           (3) This section does not preclude a hospital's or a  
2 birth center's providing the notice required under this  
3 section as an addendum to, or in connection with, any other  
4 required information.

5           (4) A cause of action does not accrue against the  
6 state or any subdivision or agency thereof or any hospital or  
7 any birth center for failure to give or receive the  
8 information required under this section.

9           (5) Any hospital or birth center that continues to  
10 violate this section after having received from the Department  
11 of Health written notice that a violation of this section has  
12 occurred and after having been given an opportunity to be  
13 heard is subject to a civil penalty in an amount not to exceed  
14 \$500.

15           Section 2. This act shall take effect upon becoming a  
16 law.

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18                   STATEMENT OF SUBSTANTIAL CHANGES CONTAINED IN  
19                   COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE FOR  
20                   Senate Bill 1766

21 The bill requires birth centers, in addition to hospitals, to  
22 provide information to parents concerning the dangers of  
23 shaking infants and young children.  
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