

**The Florida Senate**  
**BILL ANALYSIS AND FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT**

(This document is based on the provisions contained in the legislation as of the latest date listed below.)

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Prepared By: The Professional Staff of the Committee on Health Policy

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BILL: SB 518

INTRODUCER: Senator Gruters and others

SUBJECT: Cardiac Screening for Newborns

DATE: January 13, 2020

REVISED: \_\_\_\_\_

	ANALYST	STAFF DIRECTOR	REFERENCE	ACTION
1.	Looke	Brown	HP	<b>Pre-meeting</b>
2.			AHS	
3.			AP	

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**I. Summary:**

SB 518 amends ss. 383.318 and 395.1053, F.S., to require birth centers and hospitals, respectively, to provide cardiovascular screenings for newborn infants as part of a mandated postpartum evaluation.

The bill has an effective date of July 1, 2020.

**II. Present Situation:**

**Florida Newborn Screening Program**

Currently, s. 383.14, F.S., requires the Department of Health (DOH) to promote the screening of all newborns in the state for multiple disorders after birth. The DOH is required to screen for any condition on the federal Recommended Uniform Screening Panel<sup>1</sup> and which is also recommended by the Newborn Screening Advisory Council.<sup>2</sup> Unless a parent objects in writing, each newborn in Florida is screened for 32 primary disorders and an additional 22 secondary disorders as recommended by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Recommended Uniform Screening Panel.<sup>3</sup>

***Screening Process***

Before a newborn leaves a hospital or birth center, a few drops of blood are taken from the heel of the baby, and the ears are also tested for hearing. The facility sends the blood sample to the Bureau of Public Health Laboratories in Jacksonville and the results are sent back to the facility

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<sup>1</sup> See <https://www.hrsa.gov/advisory-committees/heritable-disorders/rusp/index.html> (last visited on Jan 8, 2020).

<sup>2</sup> See s. 383.14(2)(a)2., F.S.

<sup>3</sup> For a list of the disorders screened for see <http://www.floridahealth.gov/programs-and-services/childrens-health/newborn-screening/nbs-disorder.html> (last visited on Jan. 8, 2020).

and then forwarded to the baby's doctor. If the screening results are abnormal, the Newborn Screening Follow-up Program, which is a part of Children's Medical Services,<sup>4</sup> will contact the parent or the doctor, or both, about additional testing and will continue to follow-up until the disorder is either ruled out or confirmed.<sup>5</sup>

### **Critical Congenital Heart Disease in Newborns**

According to the federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, screening for critical congenital heart defects (CHD) can help identify some babies who have a critical CHD before they go home from the birth hospital. This allows such babies to be treated early and may prevent disability or death early in life. Some babies with a critical CHD appear healthy at first and may be sent home before their critical CHD is detected. Newborn screening for critical CHDs works with prenatal diagnosis and physical exams after birth to improve detection of critical CHDs.<sup>6</sup>

Currently the DOH screens for critical CHDs through the newborn screening program. However, though required by DOH rule,<sup>7</sup> screening for such cardiovascular conditions is not specifically mandated in the Florida Statutes.

### **III. Effect of Proposed Changes:**

SB 518 amends ss. 383.318 and 395.1053, F.S., to require birth centers and hospitals, respectively, to provide cardiovascular screenings for newborn infants as part of a mandated postpartum evaluation.

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### **IV. Constitutional Issues:**

#### **A. Municipality/County Mandates Restrictions:**

None.

#### **B. Public Records/Open Meetings Issues:**

None.

#### **C. Trust Funds Restrictions:**

None.

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<sup>4</sup> The DOH Division of Children's Medical Services is a collection of programs that serve children with special health care needs. Each program provides family-centered care using statewide networks of specially qualified doctors, nurses, and other healthcare professionals. See <http://www.floridahealth.gov/programs-and-services/childrens-health/childrens-medical-services/index.html> (last visited on Jan. 9, 2020).

<sup>5</sup> See <http://www.floridahealth.gov/programs-and-services/childrens-health/newborn-screening/> (last visited on Jan. 8, 2020).

<sup>6</sup> See <https://www.cdc.gov/ncbddd/heartdefects/screening.html> (last visited on Jan 8, 2020).

<sup>7</sup> See Fla. Admin. Code R. 64C-7.002, (2018), and the Newborn Screening Disorders list available at: <https://www.flrules.org/Gateway/reference.asp?No=Ref-09987> (last visited on Jan 8, 2020).

**D. State Tax or Fee Increases:**

None.

**E. Other Constitutional Issues:**

None.

**V. Fiscal Impact Statement:****A. Tax/Fee Issues:**

None.

**B. Private Sector Impact:**

None.

**C. Government Sector Impact:**

None.

**VI. Technical Deficiencies:**

None.

**VII. Related Issues:**

None.

**VIII. Statutes Affected:**

This bill substantially amends sections 383.318 and 395.1053 of the Florida Statutes.

**IX. Additional Information:****A. Committee Substitute – Statement of Changes:**

(Summarizing differences between the Committee Substitute and the prior version of the bill.)

None.

**B. Amendments:**

None.