

By Senator Sharief

35-00667D-25

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1 A bill to be entitled
2 An act relating to education on abusive head trauma;
3 amending s. 411.2035, F.S.; requiring the Department
4 of Health to adopt evidence-based parent education
5 materials that describe the dangers of abusive head
6 trauma, including shaken baby syndrome; specifying
7 requirements for the parent education materials;
8 specifying requirements for the distribution of the
9 parent education materials; requiring the department
10 to implement a multi-year phase-in plan for the
11 distribution of the parent education materials;
12 conforming provisions related to construction and
13 immunity from civil liability to changes made by the
14 act; providing an effective date.

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

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18 Section 1. Section 411.2035, Florida Statutes, is amended
19 to read:

20 411.2035 Dangers of abusive head trauma ~~shaking infants and~~
21 ~~young children~~; requirements for distributing parent education
22 materials brochures.—

23 ~~(1) Every hospital, birthing facility, and provider of home~~
24 ~~birth which has maternity and newborn services shall provide to~~
25 ~~the parents of a newborn, before they take their newborn home~~
26 ~~from the hospital or birthing facility, written information with~~
27 ~~an explanation concerning the dangers of shaking infants and~~
28 ~~young children.~~

29 (1)(2) The Department of Health shall adopt evidence-based

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30 parent education materials ~~prepare a brochure that describe~~
31 ~~describes~~ the dangers of abusive head trauma, including shaken
32 baby syndrome shaking infants and young children. The parent
33 education materials may be provided using written, visual, or
34 electronic applications. The materials ~~description~~ must include,
35 but need not be limited to, information concerning all of the
36 following:

37 (a) The grave effects of shaking infants and young
38 children, ~~information concerning~~

39 (b) Appropriate ways to manage the causes that can lead a
40 person to shake or harm infants and young children, including
41 normal infant crying, fussing, and other causes.

42 (c) a discussion of Ways to reduce the risks that can lead
43 a person to shake or harm infants and young children.

44 (d) Evidence-based practices for safe infant sleep and the
45 dangers associated with unsafe sleep environments for infants.

46 (e) Information on the importance of carefully selecting a
47 trusted and responsible caregiver, including warning signs of
48 potential risk factors.

49 (2) (a) The evidence-based parent education materials
50 adopted by the Department of Health under subsection (1) must be
51 distributed as follows:

52 1. Each hospital, birth center, and home birth provider
53 providing maternity, prenatal, and newborn services shall
54 provide the parent education materials to the parents or
55 caregivers of a newborn within the first 2 weeks after the birth
56 of the infant.

57 2. Childbirth educators, pediatric physician practices,
58 home visiting programs, and obstetrician practices shall provide

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59 the parent education materials to the expectant parents or
60 caregivers receiving education or health care services from them
61 or, if parents or caregivers have already received the parent
62 education materials, reiterate or reinforce the information
63 covered by such materials.

64 3. The department shall adopt a statewide multimedia public
65 education campaign to prevent instances of abusive head trauma,
66 including shaken baby syndrome, using the parent education
67 materials developed under subsection (1) or the information
68 covered by such materials.

69 (b) The department shall implement a multi-year phase-in
70 plan for the distribution of the parent education materials,
71 beginning with the counties with the six highest birth rates.

72 (3) This section does not preclude a hospital, a birth
73 center birthing facility, ~~or~~ a home birth provider, a childbirth
74 educator, a pediatric physician practice, a home visiting
75 program, or an obstetrician practice from providing the parent
76 education materials ~~notice~~ required under this section as an
77 addendum to, or in connection with, any other required
78 information.

79 (4) A cause of action does not accrue against the state or
80 any subdivision or agency thereof or any hospital, birth center,
81 home birth birthing facility or home birth provider, childbirth
82 educator, pediatric physician practice, home visiting program,
83 or obstetrician practice for failure to give or receive the
84 information required under this section.

85 Section 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 2025.