

HB 274 -- NEWBORN SCREENINGS

SPONSOR: Brattin

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "Do Pass by Consent" by the Committee on Health Care Policy by a vote of 12 to 0. Rules Committee voted "Do Pass - Not Consent."

This bill establishes Chloe's Law that requires the Department of Health and Senior Services to expand by January 1, 2014, the newborn screening requirements to include a critical congenital heart disease (CCHD) screening, using a test approved by the department, prior to the newborn being discharged from a health care facility.

PROPONENTS: Supporters say that heart defects are the number one birth defect in the entire world and the number one cause of death of infants in the United States. Screening for CCHD is an easy, inexpensive, non-invasive way to save lives through early diagnosis of very treatable heart defects. All hospitals already have the equipment necessary to test for CCHD and the equipment is available in portable sizes for midwives. There are approximately 130 infants diagnosed with CCHD in Missouri each year and of those, 10 to 15 die each year because their CCHD was either too complex or went undetected. There are currently 22 other states working on similar legislation.

Testifying for the bill were Representative Brattin; Kelly Manz; March of Dimes, Greater Missouri Chapter; American Heart Association; Department of Health and Senior Services; Johanna Derda, Missouri Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics; Missouri State Medical Association; and Missouri Association of Osteopathic Physicians (MAOPS).

OPPONENTS: There was no opposition voiced to the committee.