

HB 274 -- MENINGOCOCCAL DISEASE AND CRITICAL CONGENITAL HEART DISEASE (Brattin)

COMMITTEE OF ORIGIN: Committee on Health Care Policy

This bill changes the laws regarding newborn screenings and information relating to meningococcal disease.

INFORMATION RELATING TO MENINGOCOCCAL DISEASE

The bill requires the Department of Health and Senior Services to develop an informational brochure about meningococcal disease that states that an immunization against meningococcal disease is available. The brochure must be available on the department's website and must notify every public institution of higher education in Missouri that the brochure is available. Every public institution of higher education must provide a copy of the brochure to all students and if a student is under the age of 18, to his or her parent or guardian.

The brochure must include information concerning the risk factors and symptoms of meningococcal disease, how it is diagnosed, possible consequences if the disease is left untreated, how the disease is transmitted, and the latest scientific information on meningococcal disease immunization and its effectiveness. The brochure must also include a statement that any questions or concerns regarding immunization against meningococcal disease may be answered by the individual's health care provider.

NEWBORN SCREENINGS

The bill establishes Chloe's Law which 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.