

HB 707 -- SAFE SLEEP PRACTICES IN CHILD CARE FACILITIES

SPONSOR: Kirkton

This bill authorizes the Department of Health and Senior Services to approve training concerning the safe sleep recommendations of the American Academy of Pediatrics.

The bill requires all licensed child care facilities that provide care for children less than one year of age to implement and maintain a written safe sleep policy in accordance with the most recent safe sleep recommendations of the academy.

When an infant requires alternative sleep positions or special sleeping arrangements, the facility must be provided with written instructions, signed by the infant's licensed health care provider, detailing the alternative sleep positions or special sleeping arrangements for the infant. The facility must put the infant to sleep in accordance with the written instructions.

All employees of licensed child care facilities who care for infants less than one year of age are required to successfully complete department-approved training on the most recent safe sleep recommendations of the academy every three years.

The department must establish rules that include:

- (1) Amending any current rules which are not in compliance with the most recent recommendations of the academy, including the rule that permits the use of bumper pads in cribs or playpens;
- (2) Keeping soft or loose bedding away from sleeping infants and out of safe sleep environments; and
- (3) Prohibiting blankets or other soft or loose bedding from being hung on the sides of cribs.

The department may adopt emergency rules to implement these requirements.

The bill contains an emergency clause.