STATE OF OKLAHOMA

1st Session of the 54th Legislature (2013)

SENATE BILL 851 By: David

AS INTRODUCED

An Act relating to public health; providing legislative findings; defining term; requiring birthing facilities to administer pulse oximetry screenings to newborns; providing for noncodification, providing for codification, providing an effective date; and declaring an emergency.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF OKLAHOMA:

SECTION 1. NEW LAW A new section of law not to be codified in the Oklahoma Statutes reads as follows:

The Legislature finds and declares that:

1. Congenital heart defects are structural abnormalities of the heart that are present at birth; congenital heart defects range in severity from simple problems such as holes between chambers of the heart, to severe malformations, such as the complete absence of one or more chambers or valves; some critical congenital heart defects can cause severe and life-threatening symptoms which require intervention within the first days of life;

2. Congenital heart defects are a leading cause of death among infants with birth defects;

3. According to the United States Secretary of Health and Human Services' Advisory Committee on Heritable Disorders in Newborns and Children, congenital heart disease affects approximately seven to nine of every one thousand live births in the United States and Europe;

4. Hospital costs for all individuals with congenital heart disease can total Two Billion Six Hundred Million Dollars ($2,600,000,000.00);

5. Current methods for detecting congenital heart defects generally include prenatal ultrasound screening and repeated clinical examinations can identify many affected newborns; these screenings, alone, identify less than half of all cases, and critical congenital heart defect cases are often missed during routine clinical exams performed prior to a newborn's discharge from a birthing facility;

6. Pulse oximetry is a noninvasive test that estimates the percentage of hemoglobin in blood that is saturated with oxygen, and when performed on newborns in delivery centers is effective at detecting critical, life-threatening congenital heart defects which otherwise go undetected by current screening methods; and

7. Newborns with abnormal pulse oximetry results require immediate confirmatory testing and intervention; and many newborn lives could potentially be saved by earlier detection and treatment of congenital heart defects if birthing facilities in the state were

required to perform this simple, noninvasive newborn screening in conjunction with current congenital heart disease screening methods.

SECTION 2. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 1-550.4 of Title 63, unless there is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

1. As used in this section, "birthing facility" means an inpatient or ambulatory health care facility licensed by the State Department of Health that provides birthing and newborn care services.

2. The State Department of Health shall require each birthing facility to perform a pulse oximetry screening on every newborn in its care prior to discharge from the birthing facility.

3. The State Board of Health shall promulgate rules necessary to carry out the purposes of this act.

SECTION 3. This act shall become effective July 1, 2013.

SECTION 4. It being immediately necessary for the preservation of the public peace, health and safety, an emergency is hereby declared to exist, by reason whereof this act shall take effect and be in full force from and after its passage and approval.

54-1-127 JAM 1/17/2013 2:51:47 PM