

House Bill 986

AN ACT TO AMEND SECTION 41-21-203, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, TO REQUIRE HEALTH CARE PROVIDERS PROVIDING PRENATAL CARE TO A PREGNANT WOMAN TO NOTIFY THE WOMAN THAT THERE ARE NEWBORN SCREENING TESTS AVAILABLE THAT MAY BE GIVEN TO HER CHILD IN ADDITION TO THE TESTS REQUIRED BY THE STATE, AND TO PROVIDE TO THE WOMAN THE MOST RECENT INFORMATION OF THE HEALTH DEPARTMENT REGARDING THOSE TESTS; TO REQUIRE THE PHYSICIAN OR OTHER HEALTH CARE PROVIDER ATTENDING A NEWBORN CHILD TO NOTIFY THE PARENTS THAT THERE ARE NEWBORN SCREENING TESTS AVAILABLE THAT MAY BE GIVEN TO THE CHILD IN ADDITION TO THE TESTS REQUIRED BY THE STATE, AND TO PROVIDE TO THE PARENTS THE MOST RECENT INFORMATION OF THE HEALTH DEPARTMENT REGARDING THOSE TESTS; TO AMEND SECTION 41-21-201, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, AS AMENDED BY SENATE BILL NO. 2210, 2001 REGULAR SESSION, TO REQUIRE THE STATE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH TO DEVELOP INFORMATION MATERIALS ABOUT NEWBORN SCREENING TESTS THAT ARE AVAILABLE, WHICH SHALL BE USED BY PHYSICIANS AND OTHERS TO PROVIDE THE REQUIRED INFORMATION TO PREGNANT WOMEN AND PARENTS UNDER SECTION 41-21-203; TO AUTHORIZE THE STATE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH TO PROVIDE FOR TESTING FOR CONGENITAL ADRENAL HYPERPLASIA (CAH) AS PART OF ITS NEWBORN SCREENING PROGRAM; AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MISSISSIPPI:

SECTION 1. Section 41-21-203, Mississippi Code of 1972, is amended as follows:

41-21-203. (1) * * * The physician attending a newborn child or the person attending a newborn child * * * shall provide the child tests that have been approved by the State Board of Health. However, no such tests shall be given to any child whose parents object thereto on the grounds that the test conflicts with his religious practices or tenets. The State Department of Health shall follow up all positive tests with the attending physician who notified the department thereof, or with the parents of the newborn child when the notification was made by a person other than a physician. When a test is confirmed, the services and facilities of the State Department of Health and those of other state boards, departments and agencies cooperating with the State Department of

Health in carrying out the program shall be made available to the extent needed by the physician.

(2) In addition to the requirements of subsection (1) of this section, (a) any clinic, hospital, physician or health care provider providing prenatal care to a pregnant woman shall notify the woman that there are newborn screening tests available that may be given to her child in addition to the tests that are required by the state, and shall provide to the woman the most recent information developed by the State Department of Health regarding these tests; and (b) the physician or other health care provider attending a newborn child shall notify the parents that there are newborn screening tests available that may be given to the child in addition to the tests that are required by the state, and shall provide to the parents the most recent information developed by the State Department of Health regarding these tests.

SECTION 2. Section 41-21-201, Mississippi Code of 1972, as amended by Senate Bill No. 2210, 2001 Regular Session, is amended as follows:

41-21-201. (1) The State Department of Health is * * * authorized to establish, maintain and carry out a newborn screening program designed to detect hypothyroidism, phenylketonuria (PKU), hemoglobinopathy, congenital adrenal hyperplasia (CAH) and galactosemia which may result in mental retardation or medical complications in children. The State Board of Health is authorized to adopt rules and regulations necessary to accomplish the program.

(2) Not later than October 1, 2001, the State Department of Health shall develop information materials about newborn screening tests that are available, which shall be used by physicians and others to provide the required information to pregnant women and parents under Section 41-21-203.

SECTION 3. This act shall take effect and be in force from and after July 1, 2001.

Passed State Senate
March 28, 2001

Passed House of Representatives
March 27, 2001

APPROVED BY THE GOVERNOR

GOVERNOR