

Tenn. Code Ann.

§ 68-5-901. Legislative findings.

The general assembly finds and declares the following:

- (1) That hearing loss occurs in newborns more frequently than any other health condition for which newborn screening is currently required;
- (2) That early detection of hearing loss, early intervention, and early follow-up have been demonstrated to be highly effective in encouraging development of a child's health and communication and cognitive skills; and
- (3) That early screening and intervention will serve the public purposes of promoting healthy development of children and reducing public expenditures for health care, special education and related services.

History

Acts 2008, ch. 768, § 2.

§ 68-5-902. Part definitions.

As used in this part, unless the context otherwise requires, "hearing screening" or "hearing screening test" means a screening or test provided in accordance with current hearing screening standards established by a nationally recognized organization such as the Joint Committee on Infant Hearing Screening of the American Academy of Pediatrics.

History

Acts 2008, ch. 768, § 3.

§ 68-5-903. Newborn infant.

Every newborn infant shall be screened for hearing loss in order to prevent the consequences of unidentified hearing loss, unless the parent or parents of the child object on the grounds that the test would conflict with the parent or parents' religious tenets or practices.

History

Acts 2008, ch. 768, § 4.

§ 68-5-904. Child born in hospital or other specified facilities.

(a) A child born in a hospital or other birthing facility shall be screened for hearing loss prior to discharge from that facility. The attending health care professional shall refer a child born in a setting other than a hospital or other birthing facility to the department of health or an appropriate hearing screening provider as listed in the latest edition of the directory of hearing screening providers in Tennessee for hearing screening. A child born on an emergency basis in a hospital that does not otherwise provide obstetrical or maternity services and that does not provide infant hearing screening tests prior to discharge of an infant from the hospital, shall refer a child born in that facility to the department of health or an appropriate hearing screening provider as listed in the latest edition of the directory of hearing screening providers in Tennessee for hearing screening. The hearing screening test shall be provided in accordance with current hearing screening standards established by a nationally recognized organization such as the Joint Committee on Infant Hearing Screening of the American Academy of Pediatrics. All screening providers or entities shall report their screening results to the department of health.

(b) Any medical or audiologic provider performing follow-up tests shall report the results of the tests to the department of health.

History

Acts 2008, ch. 768, § 5.

§ 68-5-905. Report and referrals.

The results of all hearing screenings performed pursuant to this part shall be reported to the department of health. The department of health shall refer any child who does not pass the hearing screening test to the Tennessee early intervention system (TEIS) of the department of education for follow-up. Children who have been identified with hearing loss or high risk conditions that place them at high risk for hearing loss as identified by standards established by a nationally recognized organization such as the Joint Committee on Infant Hearing Screening of the American Academy of Pediatrics shall be referred to the TEIS.

History

Acts 2008, ch. 768, § 6.

§ 68-5-906. Rules and Regulations.

The department of health, in consultation with the department of education, shall promulgate rules and regulations in accordance with the Uniform Administrative Procedures Act, compiled in title 4, chapter 5, to effectuate this part.

History

Acts 2008, ch. 768, § 7.