

HB401

REQUIRES SCREENING FOR HEARING LOSS IN ALL INFANTS UNDER THREE MONTHS OF AGE; ESTABLISHES BLIND STUDENT LITERACY PROGRAM.

Sponsor:	Barry, Joan (100)	Effective Date: 00/00/0000
CoSponsor:	Backer, Gracia Y. (20)	LR Number: 0621-03
Last Action:	07/13/1999 - Approved by Governor (G)	
	07/13/1999 - Delivered to Secretary of State	
	SCS HB 401	
Next Hearing:	Hearing not scheduled	
Calendar:	Bill currently not on calendar	

[ACTIONS](#)[HEARINGS](#)[CALENDAR](#)[BILL SUMMARIES](#)[BILL TEXT](#)[FISCAL NOTES](#)[HOUSE HOME PAGE](#)[BILL SEARCH](#)

Available Bill Summaries for HB401 [Copyright\(c\)](#)

* [Truly Agreed](#) * [Senate Committee Substitute](#) * [Perfected](#) * [Committee](#) * [Introduced](#)

Available Bill Text for HB401

* [Truly Agreed](#) * [Senate Committee Substitute](#) * [Perfected](#) * [Committee](#) * [Introduced](#) *

Available Fiscal Notes for HB401

* [Senate Committee Substitute](#) * [Introduced](#) *

BILL SUMMARIES

TRULY AGREED

SCS HB 401 -- BLIND STUDENT LITERACY; HEARING SCREENING FOR NEWBORNS

BLIND STUDENT LITERACY

This bill establishes a program for blind student literacy. The Division of Special Education in the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education is required to establish a program to

provide a blindness skills specialist at each regional professional development center. The bill specifies the duties of the specialists. A Blindness Skills Specialist Fund will be created and administered by the Division of Special Education.

Members of a Task Force on Blind Student Academic and Vocational Performance will be appointed by the Commissioner of Education with cooperation from the Director of the Department of Social Services and will develop goals and objectives for the improvement of special education, vocational training, rehabilitation services, and other related services.

The bill requires the Division of Special Education to conduct an annual study of the educational status of eligible students and to report the findings to the Speaker of the House of Representatives, the President Pro Tem of the Senate, and the standing committee of jurisdiction in both legislative chambers by December 1 of each year.

The Division of Special Education is required to develop a system of joint referral with Rehabilitation Services for the Blind. Children identified by a school district or the Division of Special Education as eligible students will be referred, with parental consent or the consent of the student, to Rehabilitation Services for the Blind.

Public elementary, secondary, and postsecondary schools are required to preferentially procure educational materials from vendors who make materials available in Braille or electronic format at no greater costs than regular materials.

HEARING SCREENING FOR NEWBORNS

Effective January 1, 2002, this bill establishes a screening program for hearing loss in newborn children and children less than 3 months old who are born in Missouri.

Authorized facilities, physicians, and other persons providing pediatric care to newborns are required to provide parents or guardians of newborns with information from the Department of Health about screening for hearing loss and implications for treatment or nontreatment before the examination is conducted. The bill also specifies the type of hearing technology to be

used; the facilities, physicians, and other persons who are required to ensure that the screening test was completed and reported to parents and the department; and regulations regarding the exemption of newborns.

If the newborn fails the screening test, authorized facilities, physicians, and other persons are required to provide educational information to parents or guardians promoting further diagnostic assessments and the identification of community resources. Authorized facilities, physicians, and other persons who voluntarily provided screening examinations to newborns prior to January 1, 2002, are required to report the results to the department.

The Department of Health is required to provide administrative and technical assistance to facilities implementing the screening program. The department is also required to establish and maintain a newborn hearing screening surveillance and monitoring system for newborns reported with a hearing loss and to establish follow-up, referral, and reporting procedures for newborns reported with a possible hearing loss. The department can disclose confidential information to authorized persons and agencies for follow-up examinations without parental or guardian consent.

The director of the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education is required to establish rules for the implementation of Part C of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act data system in order to monitor and to annually report the results of early intervention services to the Department of Health. The bill authorizes the establishment of a non--compensated 16-member Newborn Hearing Screening Advisory Committee and specifies the composition of the committee. The committee is to advise and assist the Department of Health in the operation and evaluation of the hearing screening program.

Various health insurance policies are required to provide coverage for hearing screening examinations and additional diagnostic examinations. Copayments and deductible amounts are required to remain similar to other health care services contained in the policies. Newborns eligible for medical assistance or the children's health insurance program will also be covered. Specific insurance policies are excluded from the

requirement to provide coverage for the hearing loss screening tests.

PERFECTED

HB 401 -- SCREENING FOR HEARING LOSS IN NEWBORNS (Barry)

Effective January 1, 2002, this bill establishes a screening program for hearing loss in newborn children and children less than 3 months old who are born in Missouri.

Authorized facilities, physicians, and other persons providing pediatric care to newborns are required to provide parents or guardians of newborns with information from the Department of Health about screening for hearing loss and implications for treatment or non-treatment before the examination is conducted. The bill also specifies the type of hearing technology to be used; the facilities, physicians, and other persons who are required to ensure that the screening test was completed and reported to parents and the department; and regulations regarding the exemption of newborns.

If the newborn fails the screening test, authorized facilities, physicians, and other persons are required to provide educational information to parents or guardians promoting further diagnostic assessments and the identification of community resources. Authorized facilities, physicians, and other persons who voluntarily provided screening examinations to newborns prior to January 1, 2002, are required to report the results to the department.

The Department of Health is required to provide administrative and technical assistance to facilities implementing the screening program. The department is also required to establish and maintain a newborn hearing screening surveillance and monitoring system for newborns reported with a hearing loss and to establish follow-up, referral, and reporting procedures for newborns reported with a possible hearing loss. The department can disclose confidential information to authorized persons and agencies for follow-up examinations without parental or guardian consent.

The director of the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education in conjunction with Part C of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act data system is required to monitor and to annually report the results of early intervention services to the Department of Health. The bill authorizes the establishment of a non-compensated, 12-member, Newborn Hearing Screening Advisory Committee and specifies the composition of the committee. The committee is to advise and assist the Department of Health in the operation and evaluation of the hearing screening program.

Various health insurance policies are required to provide coverage for hearing screening examinations and additional diagnostic examinations. Co-payments and deductible amounts are required to remain similar to other health care services contained in the policies. Newborns eligible for other medical assistance or the children's health insurance program will also be covered. Specific insurance policies are excluded from the requirement to provide coverage for the hearing loss screening tests as stated in the bill.

FISCAL NOTE: Estimated Net Cost to General Revenue of \$164,144 to Unknown in FY 2000, \$178,686 to Unknown in FY 2001, and \$359,576 in FY 2002. Estimated Net Income to Insurance Dedicated Fund of \$14,450 to \$28,900 in FY 2000, \$0 in FY 2001, and \$0 in FY 2002. Estimated Net Cost to Highway Funds of \$0 in FY 2000, \$0 in FY 2001, and \$41,177 in FY 2002.

COMMITTEE

HB 401 -- SCREENING FOR HEARING LOSS IN NEWBORNS

CO-SPONSORS: Barry, Backer

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "do pass" by the Committee on Public Health by a vote of 13 to 0.

Effective January 1, 2002, this bill establishes a screening program for hearing loss in newborn children and children less than 3 months old who are born in the State of Missouri.

Authorized facilities, physicians, and other persons providing pediatric care to newborns are required to provide parents or guardians of newborns with information from the Department of Health about screening for hearing loss and implications for treatment or non-treatment before the examination is conducted. The bill also specifies the type of hearing technology to be used; the facilities, physicians, and other persons who are required to ensure that the screening test was completed and reported to parents and the department; and regulations regarding the exemption of newborns.

If the newborn fails the screening test, authorized facilities, physicians, and other persons are required to provide educational information to parents or guardians promoting further diagnostic assessments and the identification of community resources. Authorized facilities, physicians, and other persons who voluntarily provided screening examinations to newborns prior to January 1, 2002, are required to report the results to the department.

The Department of Health is required to provide administrative and technical assistance to facilities implementing the screening program. The department is also required to establish and maintain a newborn hearing screening surveillance and monitoring system for newborns reported with a hearing loss and to establish follow-up, referral, and reporting procedures for newborns reported with a possible hearing loss. The department can disclose confidential information to authorized persons and agencies for follow-up examinations without parental or guardian consent.

The director of the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education in conjunction with Part C of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act data system is required to monitor and to annually report the results of early intervention services to the Department of Health. The bill authorizes the establishment of a non-compensated, 12-member, Newborn Hearing Screening Advisory Committee and specifies the composition of the committee. The committee is to advise and assist the Department of Health in the operation and evaluation of the hearing screening program.

Various health insurance policies are required to provide coverage for hearing screening examinations and additional diagnostic examinations. Co-payments and deductible amounts are required to remain similar to other health care services contained in the policies. Newborns eligible for other medical assistance or the children's health insurance program will also be covered. Specific insurance policies are excluded from the requirement to provide coverage for the hearing loss screening test.

FISCAL NOTE: Estimated Net Cost to General Revenue Fund of \$164,144 to Unknown in FY 2000, \$178,686 to Unknown in FY 2001, and \$359,576 in FY 2002. Income to Insurance Dedicated Fund of \$28,900 in FY 2000, \$0 in FY 2001, and \$0 in FY 2002. Estimated Net Cost to Highway Funds of \$0 in FY 2000, \$0 in FY 2001, and \$41,177 in FY 2002.

PROPOSERS: Supporters say that undetected hearing loss causes problems later in life which include problems with socialization, learning, speech and language development, and below-grade reading ability and comprehension. Supporters also state that parents are given the option to object to the hearing screening test if the test conflicts with their religious tenets and practices.

Testifying for the bill were Representatives Barry and Backer; Quota International of Kirksville; Mary Wieberg and Megan Wieberg; Missouri School for the Deaf; Department of Health; Missouri Commission for the Deaf; Department of Mental Health; Missouri Nurses Association; Missouri Speech, Language, and Hearing Association; Department of Elementary and Secondary Education; Gay Jones; and Kris Grbac-Schomaker.

OPPOSERS: There was no opposition voiced to the committee.

Joseph Deering, Legislative Analyst

INTRODUCED

HB 401 -- Screening for Hearing Loss in Newborns

Co-Sponsors: Barry, Backer

This bill establishes a screening program for hearing loss in newborn children and children less than 3 months old who are born in the State of Missouri. The effective date of operation is January 1, 2002.

Authorized facilities, physicians, and other persons providing pediatric care to newborns are required to provide parents or guardians of newborns with information from the Department of Health about screening for hearing loss and implications for treatment or non-treatment before the examination is conducted. The bill also specifies the type of hearing technology to be used; the facilities, physicians, and other persons who are required to ensure that the screening test was completed and reported to parents and the department; and regulations regarding the exemption of newborns.

If the newborn fails the screening test, authorized facilities, physicians, and other persons are required to provide educational information to parents or guardians promoting further diagnostic assessments and the identification of community resources. Authorized facilities, physicians, and other persons who voluntarily provided screening examinations to newborns prior to January 1, 2002, are required to report the results to the department.

The Department of Health is required to provide administrative and technical assistance to facilities implementing the screening program. The department is also required to establish and maintain a newborn hearing screening surveillance and monitoring system for newborns reported with a hearing loss and to establish follow-up, referral, and reporting procedures for newborns reported with a possible hearing loss. The department can disclose confidential information to authorized persons and agencies for follow-up examinations without parental or guardian consent.

The director of the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education in conjunction with Part C of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act data system is required to monitor and to annually report the results of early intervention services to the Department of Health. The bill authorizes the

establishment of a non-compensated, 12-member, Newborn Hearing Screening Advisory Committee and specifies the composition of such members. The purposes of the committee are to advise and assist the Department of Health in the operation and evaluation of the hearing screening program.

Various health insurance policies are required to provide coverage for hearing screening examinations and additional diagnostic examinations. Co-payments and deductible amounts are required to remain similar to other health care services contained in the policies. Newborns eligible for other medical assistance or the children's health insurance program will also be covered. Specific insurance policies are excluded from the requirement to provide coverage for the hearing loss screening test.



[Missouri House of Representatives' Home Page](#)

Last Updated September 30, 1999 at 1:24 pm