

AMENDED IN SENATE JULY 8, 2015
AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY MAY 28, 2015
AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY APRIL 30, 2015
AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY APRIL 21, 2015
AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY MARCH 25, 2015
AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY MARCH 11, 2015
CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE—2015–16 REGULAR SESSION

ASSEMBLY BILL

No. 170

Introduced by Assembly Member Gatto

January 22, 2015

An act to amend Section 125000 of, and to add Sections 125003, 125004, and 125005 to, the Health and Safety Code, relating to newborn screening.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AB 170, as amended, Gatto. Newborn screening: genetic diseases: blood samples collected.

Existing law requires the State Department of Public Health to establish a program for the development, provision, and evaluation of genetic disease testing, and the program is required to provide genetic screening and followup services for persons who have the screening. The program includes statewide screening of newborn children through the collection of blood samples, unless the parent or guardian objects on the grounds of religious beliefs or practices.

This bill would require the department to provide information about the testing program, and to obtain a form signed by the parent or

guardian acknowledging receiving information regarding the storage, retention, and use of the newborn child's blood sample for medical research. The bill would authorize a parent or guardian of a minor child, and the newborn child, once he or she is at least 18 years of age, to request that the department destroy the blood sample, not use it for research purposes, or both, and the bill would require the department to comply with the request. *The bill would require the department, if the individual making a request to destroy the blood sample or to not use it for research purposes provides his or her e-mail address, to send an e-mail to the individual acknowledging that the department received the request.* The bill would also require the department to prepare and provide informational materials regarding the same information about the newborn child's blood sample collected pursuant to the program, information on storage, retention, and use of the blood sample for medical research, and the right of specified persons to request that the blood sample be destroyed or not used for research purposes in a separate, single-page format. The bill would also require the department to prepare and provide a standard informational acceptance form, that includes, among other things, a brief, plain language explanation of, and the purpose for, the newborn child screening test and retention of newborn child blood samples. The bill would require the informational acceptance form to be provided to, and signed by, the parent or guardian when either version of the informational materials is provided. The bill would require specified persons to distribute the informational material and the informational acceptance form, including requiring the local registrar of births to provide a copy of the informational material and a copy of the standard informational acceptance form to each person registering the birth of a newborn that occurred outside of a perinatal licensed health facility, as specified. The bill would also require the local registrar to notify the local health officer and the department of each of these registrations by the local registrar. By imposing additional duties on local registrars of births, this bill would impose a state-mandated local program.

The California Constitution requires the state to reimburse local agencies and school districts for certain costs mandated by the state. Statutory provisions establish procedures for making that reimbursement.

This bill would provide that, if the Commission on State Mandates determines that the bill contains costs mandated by the state, reimbursement for those costs shall be made pursuant to these statutory provisions.

Vote: majority. Appropriation: no. Fiscal committee: yes.
State-mandated local program: yes.

The people of the State of California do enact as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Section 125000 of the Health and Safety Code
2 is amended to read:
3 125000. (a) (1) It is the policy of the State of California to
4 make every effort to detect, as early as possible, phenylketonuria
5 and other preventable heritable or congenital disorders leading to
6 intellectual disability or physical defects.
7 (2) The department shall establish a genetic disease unit, that
8 shall coordinate all programs of the department in the area of
9 genetic disease. The unit shall promote a statewide program of
10 information, testing, and counseling services and shall have the
11 responsibility of designating tests and regulations to be used in
12 executing this program.
13 (3) The information, tests, and counseling for children shall be
14 in accordance with accepted medical practices and shall be
15 administered to each child born in California. The department shall
16 provide information about the tests and shall obtain a signed
17 informational acknowledgment form for the receipt of information
18 by the parent or guardian of a newborn child regarding the storage,
19 retention, and use of the newborn child's blood sample for medical
20 research. The department shall establish appropriate regulations
21 and testing methods. The information, tests, and counseling for
22 pregnant women shall be in accordance with accepted medical
23 practices and shall be offered to each pregnant woman in California
24 once the department has established appropriate regulations and
25 testing methods. These regulations shall follow the standards and
26 principles specified in Section 124980. The department may
27 provide laboratory testing facilities or contract with any laboratory
28 that it deems qualified to conduct tests required under this section.
29 However, notwithstanding former Section 125005, provision of
30 laboratory testing facilities by the department shall be contingent
31 upon the provision of funding therefor by specific appropriation
32 to the Genetic Disease Testing Fund enacted by the Legislature.
33 If moneys appropriated for purposes of this section are not
34 authorized for expenditure to provide laboratory facilities, the
35 department may nevertheless contract to provide laboratory testing

1 services pursuant to this section and shall perform laboratory
2 services, including, but not limited to, quality control, confirmatory,
3 and emergency testing, necessary to ensure the objectives of this
4 program.

5 (b) The department shall charge a fee for any tests performed
6 pursuant to this section. The amount of the fee shall be established
7 and periodically adjusted by the director in order to meet the
8 reasonable costs of this section.

9 (c) The department shall inform all hospitals or physicians and
10 surgeons, or both, of required regulations and tests and may alter
11 or withdraw any of these requirements whenever sound medical
12 practice so indicates. To the extent practicable, the department
13 shall provide notice to hospitals and other payers in advance of an
14 increase in the fees charged for the program.

15 (d) This section shall not apply if a parent or guardian of a
16 newborn child objects to a test on the ground that the test conflicts
17 with his or her religious beliefs or practices.

18 (e) The genetic disease unit is authorized to make grants or
19 contracts or payments to vendors approved by the department for
20 all of the following:

21 (1) Testing and counseling services.

22 (2) Demonstration projects to determine the desirability and
23 feasibility of additional tests or new genetic services.

24 (3) To initiate the development of genetic services in areas of
25 need.

26 (4) To purchase or provide genetic services from any sums as
27 are appropriated for this purpose.

28 (f) (1) The genetic disease unit shall evaluate and prepare
29 recommendations on the implementation of tests for the detection
30 of hereditary and congenital diseases, including, but not limited
31 to, biotinidase deficiency and cystic fibrosis. The genetic disease
32 unit shall also evaluate and prepare recommendations on the
33 availability and effectiveness of preventative followup
34 interventions, including the use of specialized medically necessary
35 dietary products.

36 (2) It is the intent of the Legislature that funds for the support
37 of the evaluations and recommendations required pursuant to this
38 subdivision, and for the activities authorized pursuant to
39 subdivision (e), shall be provided in the annual Budget Act
40 appropriation from the Genetic Disease Testing Fund.

1 (g) Health care providers that contract with a prepaid group
2 practice health care service plan that annually has at least 20,000
3 births among its membership, may provide, without contracting
4 with the department, any or all of the testing and counseling
5 services required to be provided under this section or the
6 regulations adopted pursuant thereto, if the services meet the
7 quality standards and adhere to the regulations established by the
8 department, the plan pays that portion of a fee established under
9 this section that is directly attributable to the department's
10 reasonable cost of administering the testing or counseling service
11 and attributable to any required testing or counseling services
12 provided by the state for plan members. The payment by the plan,
13 as provided in this subdivision, shall be deemed to fulfill any
14 obligation the provider or the provider's patient may have to the
15 department to pay a fee in connection with the testing or counseling
16 service.

17 (h) The department may appoint experts in the area of genetic
18 screening, including, but not limited to, cytogenetics, molecular
19 biology, prenatal, specimen collection, and ultrasound, to provide
20 expert advice and opinion on the interpretation and enforcement
21 of regulations adopted pursuant to this section. These experts shall
22 be designated agents of the state with respect to their assignments.
23 These experts shall not receive a salary, but shall be reimbursed
24 for expenses associated with the purposes of this section. All
25 expenses of the experts for the purposes of this section shall be
26 paid from the Genetic Disease Testing Fund.

27 (i) A parent or legal guardian of a minor may request the
28 department *to* destroy the blood sample of the minor collected as
29 a newborn, or not use it for research purposes, or both, and the
30 department shall comply with that request. *If the parent or legal*
31 *guardian making the request provides his or her e-mail address,*
32 *the department shall send an e-mail acknowledging that the*
33 *department received the request.*

34 (j) An individual who is at least 18 years of age may request
35 the department *to* destroy his or her blood sample that was collected
36 as a newborn, or not use it for research purposes, or both, and the
37 department shall comply with that request. *If the individual making*
38 *the request provides his or her e-mail address, the department*
39 *shall send an e-mail acknowledging that the department received*
40 *the request.*

1 SEC. 2. Section 125003 is added to the Health and Safety Code,
2 to read:

3 125003. (a) The department shall prepare and provide
4 informational materials regarding newborn child blood samples
5 collected pursuant to this article that include, but are not limited
6 to, all of the following:

7 (1) A brief, plain language explanation of, and the purpose for,
8 the newborn child screening test and the storage, retention, and
9 use of newborn child blood samples collected pursuant to this
10 article.

11 (2) A description of the benefits of both early newborn child
12 screening and the associated research undertaken regarding
13 preventable heritable or congenital disorders.

14 (3) A description of the California Biobank Program, specifically
15 as it pertains to the Genetic Disease Screening Program, and
16 subsequent storage, retention, and use of the newborn child's blood
17 sample for medical research.

18 (4) An explanation of the parent's or legal guardian's right to
19 request that his or her minor child's blood sample be destroyed or
20 not used for research purposes, or both, and the information
21 necessary to make that request.

22 (5) A statement that an individual who is at least 18 years of
23 age has the right to request that his or her blood sample be
24 destroyed or not used for research purposes, or both, and the
25 information necessary to make that request.

26 (b) These informational materials shall be confined to a single
27 page and presented in a separate document from the standard
28 informational acceptance form required in Section 125004.

29 SEC. 3. Section 125004 is added to the Health and Safety Code,
30 to read:

31 125004. (a) The department shall prepare a standard
32 informational acceptance form that includes all of the following:

33 (1) A brief, plain language explanation of, and the purpose for,
34 the newborn child screening test and retention of newborn child
35 blood samples collected pursuant to this article.

36 (2) An explanation of the parent's or legal guardian's right to
37 request that his or her minor child's blood sample be destroyed or
38 not used for research purposes, or both, and the information
39 necessary to make that request.

1 (3) A space for the parent or legal guardian of the newborn child
2 to acknowledge receipt of informational materials regarding the
3 storage, retention, and use of the newborn child’s blood sample
4 for medical research.

5 (4) A space for the parent or legal guardian of the newborn child
6 to sign and date the form.

7 (b) The standard informational acceptance form shall be
8 confined to a single page and presented in a separate document
9 from the informational materials required in Section 125003.

10 (c) A copy of the standard informational acceptance form shall
11 be maintained in the medical record of the mother of the newborn
12 child.

13 (d) As used in this article, “informational acceptance form”
14 means a written acknowledgment of received informational
15 materials, signed and dated by a parent or legal guardian of a
16 newborn child.

17 (e) In the event that there is no signed standard informational
18 acceptance form retained in the mother’s medical record, the
19 newborn child shall be administered the genetic screening test and
20 the newborn child blood sample shall be stored and retained for
21 medical research pursuant to Section 125000.

22 SEC. 4. Section 125005 is added to the Health and Safety Code,
23 to read:

24 125005. (a) The department shall provide a parent or legal
25 guardian with the informational materials described in Section
26 125003 and the standard informational acceptance form described
27 in Section 125004 regarding the retention of newborn child blood
28 samples collected pursuant to this article.

29 (b) The informational materials and standard informational
30 acceptance form described in Section 125004 shall be distributed
31 as follows:

32 (1) A birth attendant engaged in providing perinatal care shall
33 provide a pregnant woman, prior to the estimated date of delivery,
34 with a copy of the informational materials and a copy of the
35 standard informational acceptance form provided by the
36 department.

37 (2) If the informational materials or standard informational
38 acceptance form has not been provided pursuant to paragraph (1),
39 a perinatal licensed health facility shall provide each pregnant
40 woman admitted for delivery with a copy of the informational

1 materials and a copy of the standard informational acceptance form
2 provided by the department.

3 (3) The local registrar of births and deaths shall provide a copy
4 of the informational material and a copy of the standard
5 informational acceptance form provided by the department to each
6 person registering the birth of a newborn that occurred outside of
7 a perinatal licensed health facility when the newborn was not
8 admitted to a perinatal licensed health facility within the first 30
9 days of age. The local registrar of births and deaths shall notify
10 the local health officer and the department of each of these
11 registrations.

12 (c) For the purposes of this section, the following terms shall
13 have the following meanings:

14 (1) “Birth attendant” means a person licensed or certified by
15 the state to provide maternity care and to deliver pregnant women
16 or to practice medicine.

17 (2) “Perinatal licensed health facility” means a health facility
18 licensed by the state and approved to provide perinatal, delivery,
19 newborn intensive care, newborn nursery, or pediatric services.

20 SEC. 5. If the Commission on State Mandates determines that
21 this act contains costs mandated by the state, reimbursement to
22 local agencies and school districts for those costs shall be made
23 pursuant to Part 7 (commencing with Section 17500) of Division
24 4 of Title 2 of the Government Code.