

Regular Session, 1999

SENATE BILL NO. 436

BY SENATORS LANDRY AND IRONS AND REPRESENTATIVES
DURAND, JETSON, TOOMY AND WILKERSON

AN ACT

To amend and reenact R.S. 46:2263(7)(a)(xi) and (b)(ix) and (8), 2264(A)(4) and 2267 and to enact R.S. 46:2262(D), relative to the identification of hearing impairment in infants; to revise certain definitions; to require hospitals to provide screening for hearing impairment to all newborn infants prior to discharge; to provide an effective date for adoption of rules and regulations; and to provide for related matters.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

Section 1. R.S. 46:2263(7)(a)(xi) and (b)(ix) and (8), 2264(A)(4) and 2267 are hereby amended and reenacted and R.S. 46:2262(D) is hereby enacted to read as follows:

§2262. Purpose

* * *

R.S. 46:2262(D) is all new law.

D. Appropriate screening and identification of newborns and infants with hearing loss will therefore serve the public purpose of promoting the healthy development of children and reducing public expenditures for health care, special education, and related services.

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§2263. Definitions

Except where the context clearly indicates otherwise, in this Chapter:

* * *

(7) "Risk factors" means those criteria or factors, any one of which identifies an infant as being at risk for hearing impairment.

(a) The risk factors that identify those neonates, infants from birth through the first twenty-eight days, who are at risk for sensorineural hearing impairment include the following:

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(xi) Other risk factors added **or deleted** by the office of public health upon recommendation of the advisory council for early identification of hearing impaired children.

(b) The factors that identify those infants aged twenty-nine days to two years who are at risk for sensorineural hearing impairment include the following:

* * *

(ix) Other risk factors added **or deleted** by the office of public health upon recommendation of the advisory council for early identification of hearing impaired children.

(8) "Screening for hearing impairment" means employing a device for identifying whether an infant has a disorder of the auditory system, but may not necessarily provide a comprehensive determination of hearing thresholds in the speech range. Procedures may include auditory brainstem response (ABR) screening or **evoked otoacoustic emissions (EOAE) screening, or** other devices approved by the office upon recommendation of the advisory council.

§2264. Identification of hearing impairment in infants

A. The office of public health in the Department of Health and Hospitals shall establish, in consultation with the advice of the Louisiana Commission for the Deaf and the advisory council created

in R.S. 46:2265, a program for the early identification and follow-up of infants at risk, hearing impaired infants, and infants at risk of developing a progressive hearing impairment. That program shall, at a minimum:

* * *

(4) Require for ~~those~~ all newborn infants ~~at risk, as shown by the at-risk questionnaire for infant hearing loss,~~ that the hospital of birth or that hospital to which the newborn infant may be transferred provide screening for hearing impairment by auditory brainstem response (ABR) screening, or evoked otoacoustic emissions (EOAE) screening, or any other screening device approved by the office before discharge. The results of that screening for hearing impairment shall be provided to the at-risk registry of the office of public health, the parent or guardian, and if known, the primary care physician and the provider of audiological services.

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§2267. Effective date; rules and regulations

The office of public health shall, by July 1, ~~1993~~ 2000, adopt rules and regulations necessary to implement the program in accordance with the Administrative Procedure Act.

PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE

SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF LOUISIANA

APPROVED: _____