

BILL ANALYSIS

Senate Research Center
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H.B. 2636
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Health & Human Services
5/10/2011
Engrossed

AUTHOR'S / SPONSOR'S STATEMENT OF INTENT

H.B. 2636 amends current law relating to a commission to study neonatal intensive care units.

RULEMAKING AUTHORITY

This bill does not expressly grant any additional rulemaking authority to a state officer, institution, or agency.

SECTION BY SECTION ANALYSIS

SECTION 1. (a) Defines, in this section "commission" and "executive commissioner."

(b) Requires the executive commissioner of the Health and Human Services Commission (executive commissioner) to create and appoint the members of the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit Commission (commission) as provided by Subsection (d) of this section to study and make recommendations regarding neonatal intensive care unit operating standards and reimbursement through the Medicaid program for services provided to an infant admitted to a neonatal intensive care unit.

(c) Requires the commission to:

- (1) develop standards for operating a neonatal intensive care unit in this state;
- (2) develop an accreditation process for a neonatal intensive care unit to receive reimbursement for services provided through the Medicaid program; and
- (3) study and make recommendations regarding best practices and protocols to lower admissions to a neonatal intensive care unit.

(d) Requires the executive commissioner to appoint the following as members of the commission:

- (1) four neonatologists, at least two of whom must practice in a Level IIIC neonatal intensive care unit;
 - (2) one general pediatrician;
 - (3) two general obstetrician-gynecologists;
 - (4) two maternal fetal medicine specialists;
 - (5) one family practice physician who provides obstetrical care and practices in a rural community;
 - (6) one representative from a children's hospital;
 - (7) one representative from a hospital with a Level II neonatal intensive care unit;
- and

(8) one representative from a rural hospital.

(e) Requires the executive commissioner to designate a member of the commission to serve as presiding officer. Requires the members of the commission to elect any other necessary officers.

(f) Requires the commission to meet at the call of the executive commissioner.

(g) Provides that a member of the commission serves at the will of the executive commissioner.

(h) Provides that a member of the commission is not entitled to reimbursement of expenses or to compensation.

(i) Authorizes the commission to accept gifts and grants from any source to be used to carry out a function of the commission.

(j) Requires the commission, not later than January 1, 2013, to submit a report to the executive commissioner, the governor, the lieutenant governor, the speaker of the house of representatives, and the chairs of the appropriate legislative committees on its findings and recommendations required by this section.

SECTION 2. Requires the executive commissioner, not later than December 1, 2011, to appoint the members of the commission as required by Section 1 of this Act.

SECTION 3. Provides that this Act expires June 1, 2013.

SECTION 4. Effective date: September 1, 2011.