

## **BILL ANALYSIS**

Senate Research Center

C.S.H.B. 2636  
By: Kolkhorst, Walle (Nelson)  
Health & Human Services  
5/12/2011  
Committee Report (Substituted)

### **AUTHOR'S / SPONSOR'S STATEMENT OF INTENT**

C.S.H.B. 2636 amends current law relating to a council 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 "council" 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 Council (council) 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 council 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 council:

- (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 council to serve as presiding officer. Requires the members of the council to elect any other necessary officers.

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

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

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

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

(j) Requires the council, 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 council 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.