

Advance Universal Newborn Screening Program, Local Health Department Assistance, Annual Assessment of Service Rates; House Sub. for SB 126

House Sub. for SB 126 does the following:

- Updates the current newborn screening program to establish the Advance Universal Newborn Screening Program;
- Increases the minimum statutory state financial assistance to local health departments; and
- Increases the hospital provider annual assessment on services rate and extends the assessment to include critical access and rural emergency hospitals with revenues above a certain threshold.

Advance Universal Newborn Screening Program

The bill makes various updates to the newborn screening program and establishes the name of the program as the Advance Universal Newborn Screening Program (Program). The Program will be administered by the Secretary of Health and Environment (Secretary) and includes educational programming, screening tests, a follow-up program, and, within the limits of available appropriations, medically necessary treatment products for all conditions determined and identified by the Secretary, which could include, but would not be limited to, conditions listed in the recommended uniform screening panel issued by the U.S. Secretary of Health and Human Services. Physicians or mid-level practitioners having knowledge of a case of one of the conditions identified by the Secretary in the physician's or mid-level practitioner's own patients will be required to report the case to the Secretary.

The bill specifies that mid-level practitioners have the same responsibilities as physicians under the Program, removes specific listed conditions, and clarifies that the maintenance of registry is for the purpose of follow-up services to support early diagnosis, treatment, and services for healthy development and the prevention of disability or morbidity.

The bill authorizes the Secretary to adopt rules and regulations to determine the eligibility for reimbursement to individuals for the purchase of medically necessary food treatment products for diagnosed conditions.

The bill removes the FY 2026 sunset on an annual transfer of up to \$5.0 million from the Health Maintenance Organization privilege fee in the Kansas Newborn Screening Fund.

Local Health Department Assistance

The bill increases the minimum statutory state financial assistance to local health departments from \$7,000 per year to \$12,000 per year. [Note: Budget provisos in FY 2021 through FY 2025 increased the funding to \$12,000 annually.]

Annual Assessment of Services Rates

The bill increases the annual assessment rate to an amount no greater than 6.0 percent of each hospital's net inpatient and outpatient operating revenue as determined by the Healthcare Access Improvement Panel (Panel). The bill adjusts the due dates for assessment payments from June 30 and December 31 to May 30 and November 30 of each year.

Critical access hospitals and licensed rural emergency hospitals that have revenues below the threshold determined by the Panel will be exempt from the assessment.

The bill authorizes the Kansas Department of Health and Environment (KDHE) to take legal action against any hospital that fails to pay the amount due, including penalties, upon recommendation of the Panel except when the hospital has established and is in compliance with a payment schedule approved by KDHE.