

**SENATE BILL NO. 87**

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

TWENTY-EIGHTH LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION

BY SENATORS MICCICHE, McGuire

Introduced: 3/27/13

Referred: Health and Social Services, Finance

**A BILL**

**FOR AN ACT ENTITLED**

1 **"An Act requiring screening of newborns for congenital heart defects; and providing for**  
2 **an effective date."**

3 **BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA:**

4 \* **Section 1.** AS 18.15 is amended by adding a new section to read:

5 **Sec. 18.15.205. Screening for congenital heart disease.** (a) A health care  
6 facility licensed in the state that provides birthing services shall ensure that, before  
7 discharge from the facility, and as close to 24 hours after birth as is feasible, screening  
8 for congenital heart defects through pulse oximetry equipment and methods  
9 appropriate for use on a newborn are performed on a newborn born at the facility,  
10 unless screening is refused under (d) of this section.

11 (b) The attending physician, direct-entry midwife, or other qualified health  
12 care professional at a birth in a health care facility in the state shall, before discharge  
13 from the facility, order or perform confirmatory testing on a newborn whose pulse  
14 oximetry results are abnormal and provide advice to the parent or legal guardian

1 regarding the need for appropriate interventions.

2 (c) The health care facility in which pulse oximetry screening under (a) of this  
3 section is performed shall report to the parents and attending physicians of the  
4 newborn and to the department the results of screening, confirmatory testing, and  
5 interventions.

6 (d) Before performing screening or confirmatory testing for congenital heart  
7 disease under (a) or (b) of this section, a health care professional at the health care  
8 facility performing the screening or testing shall provide to a parent or legal guardian  
9 of a newborn information on the screening or testing and the option to refuse the  
10 screening or testing.

11 (e) The department shall establish procedures for submitting reports of  
12 newborn screening and testing results to the department, including the number of  
13 refusals, and for collecting and analyzing data that have been reported.

14 \* **Sec. 2.** The uncodified law of the State of Alaska is amended by adding a new section to  
15 read:

16 **APPLICABILITY.** AS 18.15.205, enacted by sec. 1 of this Act, does not apply to a  
17 licensed health care facility in the state that provides birthing services and that has fewer than  
18 50 beds until January 1, 2016.

19 \* **Sec. 3.** This Act takes effect January 1, 2014.