



# LAWS OF ALASKA

2013

**Source**  
CSSB 87(HSS)

**Chapter No.**  
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## AN ACT

Requiring screening of newborns for congenital heart defects; and providing for an effective date.

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

THE ACT FOLLOWS ON PAGE 1



AN ACT

1 Requiring screening of newborns for congenital heart defects; and providing for an effective  
2 date.

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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 provider of  
6 birthing services who attends a birth in the state shall ensure that, as close to 24 hours  
7 after the birth as feasible, screening for congenital heart defects through pulse  
8 oximetry equipment and methods appropriate for use on a newborn is performed on  
9 the newborn, unless screening is refused under (d) of this section.

10           (b) A provider of birthing services who attends a birth in the state shall, as  
11 soon as possible after screening conducted under (a) of this section, make a referral for  
12 confirmatory testing on a newborn whose pulse oximetry results are abnormal and  
13 provide advice to the parent or legal guardian regarding the need for appropriate  
14 interventions.

1 (c) The provider who performs pulse oximetry screening under (a) of this  
2 section shall report to the parents and attending physicians of the newborn and to the  
3 department the results of screening.

4 (d) Before performing screening for congenital heart disease under (a) of this  
5 section, a provider of birthing services shall provide to a parent or legal guardian of a  
6 newborn information on the screening and the option to refuse the screening.

7 (e) The department shall establish procedures for submitting reports of  
8 newborn screening results to the department and for summarizing reported data.

9 (f) In this section, "provider of birthing services" means a physician, midwife,  
10 nurse, or other qualified professional who attends the delivery of a newborn in the  
11 course of the provider's practice.

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

14 APPLICABILITY. AS 18.15.205, enacted by sec. 1 of this Act, does not apply to a  
15 provider of birthing services who attends fewer than 20 births a year in the state until  
16 January 1, 2016.

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