



General Assembly

January Session, 2023

Raised Bill No. 1011

LCO No. 3527



Referred to Committee on COMMITTEE ON CHILDREN

Introduced by:
(KID)

AN ACT CONCERNING MINOR REVISIONS TO A STATUTE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF CHILDREN AND FAMILIES.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. Section 17a-102a of the general statutes is repealed and the
2 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2023*):

3 (a) Each birthing hospital shall provide education and training for
4 nurses and other staff who care for high-risk newborns on the roles and
5 responsibilities of such nurses and other staff as mandated reporters of
6 potential child abuse and neglect under section 17a-101.

7 (b) The Department of Children and Families shall coordinate with
8 each birthing hospital in the state to disseminate information regarding
9 (1) procedures for the principal providers of daily direct care of high-
10 risk newborns in birthing hospitals to participate in the discharge
11 planning process, and (2) ongoing department functions concerning
12 high-risk newborns.

13 (c) Not later than January 1, [2019] 2024, the Commissioner of
14 Children and Families shall, in consultation with other departments,

15 agencies or entities concerned with the health and well-being of
16 children, develop guidelines for the safe care of newborns who exhibit
17 physical, neurological or behavioral symptoms consistent with prenatal
18 substance exposure, withdrawal symptoms from prenatal substance
19 exposure or fetal alcohol spectrum disorder. Such guidelines shall
20 include, but are not limited to, instructions to providers regarding such
21 providers' participation in the discharge planning process, including the
22 creation of written [plans of safe care] family care plans, which shall be
23 developed between such providers and [mothers] birth parents of such
24 newborns as part of such process.

25 (d) A provider involved in the delivery or care of a newborn who, in
26 the estimation of such provider, exhibits physical, neurological or
27 behavioral symptoms consistent with prenatal substance exposure,
28 withdrawal symptoms from prenatal substance exposure or fetal
29 alcohol spectrum disorder shall notify the Department of Children and
30 Families of such condition in such newborn. Such notice shall be made
31 in a form and manner prescribed by the Commissioner of Children and
32 Families and in addition to any applicable reporting requirements
33 pursuant to chapter 319a. On and after January 15, 2019, such notice
34 shall include a copy of the plan of safe care created pursuant to the
35 guidelines developed pursuant to subsection (c) of this section.

36 (e) For purposes of this section:

37 (1) "Birthing hospital" means a health care facility, as defined in
38 section 19a-630, operated and maintained in whole or in part for the
39 purpose of caring for [women] pregnant parents during delivery of a
40 child and for [women] pregnant parents and their newborns following
41 birth;

42 (2) "High-risk newborn" means any newborn identified as such under
43 any regulation or policy of the Department of Children and Families;
44 and

45 (3) "Provider" means any person licensed pursuant to chapter 370, 377
46 or 378.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
---	--	--

Section 1	<i>July 1, 2023</i>	17a-102a
-----------	---------------------	----------

Statement of Purpose:

To make minor revisions to a statute concerning the care of certain newborns at birthing hospitals.

[Proposed deletions are enclosed in brackets. Proposed additions are indicated by underline, except that when the entire text of a bill or resolution or a section of a bill or resolution is new, it is not underlined.]