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H.B. No. 1671

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

1 AN ACT

2 relating to mutual aid agreements for newborn screening laboratory  
3 services.

4 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

5 SECTION 1. Subchapter B, Chapter 12, Health and Safety  
6 Code, is amended by adding Section 12.01221 to read as follows:

7 Sec. 12.01221. MUTUAL AID AGREEMENT FOR NEWBORN SCREENING  
8 LABORATORY SERVICES. (a) In this section, "newborn screening  
9 laboratory services" means the performance of tests to analyze  
10 specimens collected as part of the newborn screenings performed  
11 under Subchapter B, Chapter 33.

12 (b) Notwithstanding Section 12.0122 or other law, the  
13 department may enter into a mutual aid agreement to provide newborn  
14 screening laboratory services to another state and to receive  
15 newborn screening laboratory services from another state in the  
16 event of an unexpected interruption of service, including an  
17 interruption caused by a disaster.

18 (c) Each mutual aid agreement under Subsection (b) shall  
19 include provisions:

20 (1) to address the confidentiality of the identity of  
21 the newborn child and the newborn child's family; and

22 (2) to ensure the return of blood specimens and  
23 related records to the state that received the newborn screening  
24 laboratory services.

1 SECTION 2. This Act takes effect September 1, 2009.