

**LEGISLATIVE BUDGET BOARD**  
**Austin, Texas**

**FISCAL NOTE, 82ND LEGISLATIVE REGULAR SESSION**

**April 30, 2011**

**TO:** Honorable Lois W. Kolkhorst, Chair, House Committee on Public Health

**FROM:** John S O'Brien, Director, Legislative Budget Board

**IN RE: SB229** by Nelson (Relating to newborn hearing screenings and hearing services for certain children.), **As Engrossed**

**No significant fiscal implication to the State is anticipated.**

The bill would amend Chapter 47 of the Health and Safety Code by revising the definition of birthing facility to include more facilities. A licensed midwife who attends the birth of a newborn is not required to offer a hearing screening for the newborn; however, the bill would require a licensed midwife who attends births that do not occur at a birthing facility to refer the parents to a birthing facility or provider for their newborn's screening. The bill would require specified facilities to report resulting information to the Department of State Health Services. The bill also describes duties of providers that receive a referral from a program under this chapter. The bill would take effect September 1, 2011.

The Department of State Health Services indicates that the bill would have no significant fiscal impact because the majority of facilities that would be affected by the change in statute are already reporting screening results, and promulgation of rules would be accomplished with existing staff resources.

**Local Government Impact**

No fiscal implication to units of local government is anticipated.

**Source Agencies:** 537 State Health Services, Department of

**LBB Staff:** JOB, CL, MB, VJC, NB