H.B. No. 2255

AN ACT

relating to newborn and infant hearing screening results and the provision of information following a screening.

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

SECTION 1.  Section 47.0031(b), Health and Safety Code, is amended to read as follows:

(b)  If a newborn or an infant does not pass the screening in a follow-up hearing screening, the program that performed the follow-up hearing screening on the newborn or infant shall:

(1)  provide the screening results to:

(A)  the newborn's or infant's parents [~~with the screening results~~]; and

(B)  with the prior written consent of the newborn's or infant's parents, the primary statewide resource center established under Section 30.051, Education Code;

(2)  assist in scheduling a diagnostic audiological evaluation for the newborn or infant, consistent with the most current guidelines in the Joint Committee on Infant Hearing Position Statement, or refer the newborn or infant to a licensed audiologist who provides diagnostic audiological evaluations for newborns or infants that are consistent with the most current guidelines in the Joint Committee on Infant Hearing Position Statement; and

(3)  refer the newborn or infant to early childhood intervention services and the primary statewide resource center established under Section 30.051, Education Code.

SECTION 2.  Section 47.005, Health and Safety Code, is amended by amending Subsections (a) and (b) and adding Subsection (a-1) to read as follows:

(a)  A birthing facility that operates a program shall simultaneously distribute to the parents of each newborn or infant who is screened:

(1)  the screening results; and

(2)  educational and informational materials that are standardized by the department regarding:

(A)  [~~screening results and~~] follow-up care; and

(B)  available public resources, including:

(i)  early childhood intervention services developed under Chapter 73, Human Resources Code;

(ii)  the primary statewide resource center established under Section 30.051, Education Code; and

(iii)  contact information for Texas Early Hearing Detection and Intervention.

(a-1)  The department shall make available to the public on request the educational and informational materials described by Subsection (a)(2).

(b)  A birthing facility that operates a program shall report screening results to:

(1)  the parents;

(2)  the newborn's or infant's attending physician, primary care physician, or other applicable health care provider; [~~and~~]

(3)  the department; and

(4)  the primary statewide resource center established under Section 30.051, Education Code.

SECTION 3.  Section 47.008(c), Health and Safety Code, is amended to read as follows:

(c)  The executive commissioner by rule shall develop guidelines to protect the confidentiality of patients in accordance with Chapter 159, Occupations Code, and require the written consent of a parent or guardian of a patient before any individually identifying information is provided to the department or the primary statewide resource center established under Section 30.051, Education Code, as set out in this chapter. The department and center shall permit a parent or guardian at any time to withdraw information provided to the department or center under this chapter.

SECTION 4.  As soon as practicable after the effective date of this Act, the executive commissioner of the Health and Human Services Commission shall adopt rules as necessary to implement the changes in law made by this Act.

SECTION 5.  This Act takes effect September 1, 2019.

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    President of the Senate Speaker of the House

I certify that H.B. No. 2255 was passed by the House on April 10, 2019, by the following vote:  Yeas 146, Nays 0, 1 present, not voting.

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Chief Clerk of the House

I certify that H.B. No. 2255 was passed by the Senate on May 8, 2019, by the following vote:  Yeas 31, Nays 0.

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Secretary of the Senate

APPROVED:  \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

                    Date

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                  Governor