By:  Kolkhorst, Bettencourt S.B. No. 748

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to newborn screening and the newborn screening preservation account.

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

SECTION 1.  Section 33.004(f), Health and Safety Code, is amended to read as follows:

(f)  The executive commissioner by rule shall [~~may~~] establish the amounts charged for newborn screening fees, including fees assessed for follow-up services, tracking confirmatory testing, and diagnosis. In adopting rules under this subsection, the executive commissioner shall ensure that amounts charged for newborn screening fees are sufficient to cover the costs of performing the screening.

SECTION 2.  Chapter 33, Health and Safety Code, is amended by adding Subchapter D to read as follows:

SUBCHAPTER D. NEWBORN SCREENING PRESERVATION ACCOUNT

Sec. 33.051.  DEFINITION. In this subchapter, "account" means the newborn screening preservation account established under Section 33.052.

Sec. 33.052.  CREATION OF ACCOUNT. (a)  The newborn screening preservation account is a dedicated account in the general revenue fund. Money in the account may be appropriated only to the department and only for the purpose of carrying out the newborn screening program established under this chapter.

(b)  On November 1 of each year, the comptroller shall transfer to the account any unexpended and unencumbered money from Medicaid reimbursements collected by the department for newborn screening services during the preceding state fiscal year.

(c)  The account is composed of:

(1)  money transferred to the account under Subsection (b);

(2)  gifts, grants, donations, and legislative appropriations; and

(3)  interest earned on the investment of money in the account.

(d)  Section 403.0956, Government Code, does not apply to the account.

(e)  The department administers the account. The department may solicit and receive gifts, grants, and donations from any source for the benefit of the account.

Sec. 33.053.  DEDICATED USE. (a)  The department may use any money remaining in the account after paying the costs of operating the newborn screening program established under this chapter only to:

(1)  pay the costs of offering additional newborn screening tests not offered under this chapter before September 1, 2019, including the operational costs incurred during the first year of implementing the additional tests; and

(2)  pay for capital assets, equipment, and renovations for the laboratory established by the department to ensure the continuous operation of the newborn screening program.

(b)  The department may not use money from the account for the department's general operating expenses.

Sec. 33.054.  REPORT. If the department requires an additional newborn screening test under Subchapter B the costs of which are funded with money appropriated from the newborn screening preservation account, the department shall, not later than September 1 of each even-numbered year, prepare and submit to the governor, the lieutenant governor, the speaker of the house of representatives, and each standing committee of the legislature having primary jurisdiction over the department a written report that:

(1)  summarizes the implementation plan for the test, including anticipated completion dates for implementing the test and potential barriers to conducting the test; and

(2)  summarizes the actions taken by the department to fund and implement the test during the preceding two years.

SECTION 3.  Notwithstanding Section 33.054, Health and Safety Code, as added by this Act, the Department of State Health Services shall submit the first report required by that section not later than December 1, 2019.

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.