



H.B. 76

125th General Assembly
(As Introduced)

Reps. Widowfield, Williams, Jolivette, McGregor, Gilb, C. Evans, Schaffer, Miller, Allen, Otterman, Strahorn, Ujvagi

BILL SUMMARY

- Requires the Director of Health to establish the Shaken Baby Awareness and Prevention Program.

CONTENT AND OPERATION

Background

The term "Shaken Baby Syndrome" describes the consequences that result from violently shaking an infant or young child. Forcefully shaking a child may cause swelling in the brain, which impedes the brain's oxygen supply and may cause varying degrees of brain damage. The severity of the brain damage depends on the amount and duration of the shaking and whether the child's head is impacted during the shaking.¹

Shaken Baby Syndrome Awareness and Prevention Program

(R.C. 3701.62)

The bill requires the Director of Health to establish the Shaken Baby Syndrome Awareness and Prevention Program by doing both of the following:

(1) Providing each hospital and freestanding birthing center an educational video recording that presents readily comprehensible information describing the medical effects of Shaken Baby Syndrome on children and infants and ways to prevent its occurrence;²

¹ Robert Reece, M.D., *National Center on Shaken Baby Syndrome*, <http://www.dontshake.com>, visited 3-4-03.

² As used in the bill, "hospital" means either a general hospital or a children's hospital. "Freestanding birthing center" means any facility not licensed as a maternity unit in

(2) Making available on the Ohio Department of Health's website in downloadable format a form developed in cooperation with the Ohio Hospital Association that parents of a newborn child may sign to record their participation in the program.

The bill permits the Director of Health to request that the Controlling Board approve, if funds are available from any appropriation to the Department, a transfer of funds for the purchase of shaken baby syndrome education video recordings for the program.

Under the bill, each hospital and freestanding birthing center must inform the parents of each newborn child of the program and provide the parents with the opportunity to view the video recording provided by the Department. The hospital or birthing center must also make available to each parent who views the recording a program participation form (from the Department's website). The parent may, after viewing the video, choose to sign to record his or her participation in the program. Parents of newborn children are under no obligation to participate in the program, view the video recording, or sign a program participation program form.

The bill requires hospitals and freestanding birthing centers to keep on file all signed program participation forms. By no later than March 1 of each year, each hospital and birthing center must report to the Department the following information regarding the previous calendar year:

- (1) The total number of births that occurred at the hospital or center;
- (2) The total number of viewings of the video;
- (3) The total number of program participation forms signed.

HISTORY

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Introduced	02-25-03	p. 166

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which deliveries routinely occur, regardless of whether the facility is located on the campus of another health care facility. (R.C. 3702.51.)

