Ohio Legislative Service Commission

Bill Analysis

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S.B. 198

130th General Assembly
(As Introduced)

Sens. Jones and Tavares, Bacon, Beagle, Burke, Lehner, Manning, Seitz, Uecker, Cafaro, Turner, Schiavoni, Smith, Brown, Kearney

BILL SUMMARY

- Designates October as "Sudden Infant Death Syndrome Awareness Month" in Ohio.
- Encourages coroners, deputy coroners, or any other individuals who have been designated to investigate the sudden death of a child one year of age or younger in apparent good health to complete a reporting form developed by the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.
- Requires that a copy of a completed reporting form be sent to the Director of Health and used for the purpose of collecting data to prevent future unexplained infant deaths.

CONTENT AND OPERATION

Sudden Infant Death Syndrome Awareness Month

The bill designates October as "Sudden Infant Death Syndrome Awareness Month" in Ohio.[1] On a national basis, October has been similarly observed to raise awareness of sudden infant death syndrome (SIDS) and gain support for activities to reduce SIDS rates.[2]

According to the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), SIDS is the sudden death of an infant less than one year of age that cannot be explained after a

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[1] R.C. 5.2290.

[2] National SUID/SIDS Resource Center, *October is SIDS Awareness Month* (last visited October 8, 2013), available at < http://www.sidscenter.org/october_awareness.html>.

thorough investigation is conducted, including a complete autopsy, examination of the death scene, and a review of the infant's clinical history. SIDS is a type of "sudden unexpected infant death."[3]

Sudden Unexplained Infant Death Investigation Reporting Form

The bill encourages the coroner, deputy coroner, or any other individual who has been designated to investigate when a child one year of age or younger dies suddenly when in apparent good health to complete a Sudden Unexplained Infant Death Investigation Reporting Form (SUIDI reporting form) developed by the CDC.[4] Under current law, a coroner or deputy coroner must perform an autopsy of the body of a child under two years of age who dies suddenly when in apparent good health, unless an autopsy is contrary to the religious beliefs of the child's parents.[5]

The CDC defines a "sudden unexplained infant death" as the death of an infant less than one year of age that occurs suddenly and unexpectedly. After a case investigation, these deaths may be diagnosed as suffocation, asphyxia, entrapment, infection, ingestions, metabolic diseases, cardiac arrhythmias, trauma (accidental or nonaccidental), or SIDS. In some cases where the evidence is not clear, or not enough information is available, the death is considered to be from an undetermined cause.[6]

If an SUIDI reporting form is completed, the bill requires that a copy of the form be sent to the Director of Health and used for the purpose of collecting data to prevent future unexplained infant deaths.[7]

The current version of the SUIDI reporting form is eight pages in length. It is available through the CDC's website[8] or may be accessed directly at the following address: <http://www.cdc.gov/sids/PDF/SUIDI-Form2-1-2010.pdf>.

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[3] CDC, *Sudden Infant Death Syndrome (SIDS)* (last visited October 8, 2013), available at <http://www.cdc.gov/features/sidsawarenessmonth/>.

[4] R.C. 313.121(B).

[5] R.C. 313.121(B) and (C).

[6] *Sudden Infant Death Syndrome (SIDS)*.

[7] R.C. 313.121(B).

[8] CDC, *Download the Sudden Unexplained Infant Death Investigation Reporting Form (SUIDIRF)*, available at <http://www.cdc.gov/sids/SUIDRFdownload.htm>.

HISTORY

ACTION	DATE
Introduced	10-01-13

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