

House File 9 - Introduced

HOUSE FILE 9

BY WESSEL-KROESCHELL

A BILL FOR

1 An Act requiring pulse oximetry screening for newborns in a
2 birthing hospital.

3 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF IOWA:

1 Section 1. Section 136A.5, Code 2013, is amended by adding
2 the following new subsection:

3 NEW SUBSECTION. 2A. Beginning October 1, 2013, the
4 department shall require each birthing hospital, as defined
5 in section 135.131, to perform a pulse oximetry screening on
6 every newborn in its care prior to discharge from the birthing
7 hospital. The department shall adopt rules to implement this
8 subsection.

9 EXPLANATION

10 This bill instructs the department of public health to
11 require birthing hospitals to perform a pulse oximetry
12 screening on every newborn in the facility's care prior to the
13 newborn's discharge from the hospital. A birthing hospital is
14 a private or public hospital that is licensed as a hospital by
15 the department of public health and has a licensed obstetric
16 unit or is licensed to provide obstetric services. A pulse
17 oximetry screening estimates the percentage of hemoglobin
18 in the blood that is saturated with oxygen and helps detect
19 congenital heart defects. The bill directs the department of
20 public health to adopt rules to implement the bill. The bill
21 requires birthing hospitals to comply with the pulse oximetry
22 screening requirement by October 1, 2013.