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Mischel
2/4/14

CS FOR HOUSE BILL NO. 90()
IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA
TWENTY-EIGHTH LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION

BY

Offered:
Referred:

Sponsor(s): REPRESENTATIVES SEATON, Gruenberg

A BILL
FOR AN ACT ENTITLED

1 **"An Act relating to a temporary research project for testing newborns for baseline**
2 **vitamin D levels."**

3 **BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA:**

4 *** Section 1.** The uncodified law of the State of Alaska is amended by adding a new section
5 to read:

6 **NEWBORN TESTING PROGRAM FOR VITAMIN D; LEGISLATIVE FINDINGS.**

7 (a) The legislature finds that multiple studies demonstrate a link between vitamin D
8 insufficiency in newborns and higher incidences of mental and physical health problems that
9 lead to higher costs of future medical, educational, and support services.

10 (b) On or before January 1, 2015, the department shall initiate and coordinate a 12-
11 month research project for the purpose of acquiring baseline data on vitamin D levels of
12 newborns born in the state during the testing period as provided in this section.

13 (c) The department shall contract with a research group that is affiliated with an
14 accredited university in the United States and that is conducting national clinical research on

1 the subject of newborn and prenatal vitamin D levels to provide laboratory and analytic
2 services for the samples collected under this section. The contract must provide for

3 (1) a cost of not more than \$60 for testing and analytical work of each sample;
4 (2) reporting of test results to the provider who took the sample;
5 (3) reporting of test results to the department without identifying information
6 of the newborn;

7 (4) cooperation among the contractor, the provider, and the department for
8 provision of the samples and reporting of data; and

9 (5) other provisions the department considers necessary.

10 (d) A health care provider licensed in the state who attends the delivery of a newborn
11 during the term of the contract under (c) of this section shall, at no cost to the provider or to
12 the parent of the newborn, unless the parent of a newborn refuses testing based on a religious
13 tenet,

14 (1) take or supervise the taking of blood-spot samples from each newborn or
15 the cord blood for vitamin D level testing;

16 (2) conduct, to the extent feasible, the vitamin D testing at the same time as
17 other newborn or cord blood testing;

18 (3) ensure the sampling complies with federal and state privacy laws;

19 (4) submit the samples to the group that is under contract with the department
20 to analyze the samples; and

21 (5) provide follow-up to the parent of the newborn as necessary to meet the
22 standards of practice of the provider.

23 (e) The department shall notify health care providers licensed in the state of the
24 existence of the research project initiated under this section, contact information for the
25 contractor under (c) of this section, and the terms of the contract.

26 (f) In this section,

27 (1) "department" means the Department of Health and Social Services;

28 (2) "health care professional" means a physician, physician assistant, midwife,
29 or nurse.