

HOUSE BILL NO. 90

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA
TWENTY-EIGHTH LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION

BY REPRESENTATIVE SEATON

Introduced: 1/30/13

Referred: Health and Social Services, Finance

A BILL

FOR AN ACT ENTITLED

1 **"An Act establishing a temporary program in the Department of Health and Social**
2 **Services for testing newborns for baseline 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) Beginning on or before January 1, 2014, the Department of Health and Social
11 Services shall establish a 12-month statewide program for testing the vitamin D levels of
12 newborns at birth or as soon after birth as possible for the purpose of acquiring baseline
13 vitamin D levels of all newborns in the state during the testing period. The testing shall be
14 conducted, at no cost to a parent or guardian of the newborn, by or under the supervision of a

1 health care professional licensed in the state who attends the delivery.

2 (c) The program established under this section must include a procedure for

3 (1) combining, to the extent feasible, the vitamin D testing with other newborn
4 or cord blood testing;

5 (2) ensuring testing complies with federal and state privacy laws;

6 (3) reporting test results to the department and to the parent or guardian of the
7 newborn; and

8 (4) permitting a mother of a newborn to refuse testing if serilogic testing is
9 contrary to the tenets or practice of the religious creed of the mother.

10 (d) The department shall contract with a laboratory that is affiliated with an accredited
11 university in the United States and that is conducting national clinical research on the subject
12 of newborn and prenatal vitamin D levels to provide laboratory and analytic services for the
13 samples collected under this section.

14 (e) In this section, "health care professional" means a physician, physician assistant,
15 midwife, or nurse.