SENATE BILL NO. 162

INTRODUCED BY T. SCHMIDT

BY REQUEST OF THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

A BILL FOR AN ACT ENTITLED: "AN ACT REVISING THE MONTANA GENETICS PROGRAM TO EXPAND THE GENETIC AND METABOLIC CONDITIONS FOR WHICH NEWBORNS ARE SCREENED AND TO ALLOW THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES TO CONTRACT FOR FOLLOWUP SERVICES; AND AMENDING SECTIONS 50-19-203 AND 50-19-211, MCA."

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MONTANA:

Section 1. Section 50-19-203, MCA, is amended to read:

"50-19-203. ~~Metabolic tests~~ Newborn screening and followup for metabolic and genetic disorders. (1) A person in charge of a facility ~~wherein~~ in which a child is born or ~~wherein~~ a facility in which a newborn ~~infant is cared for~~ is provided care or a person responsible for the registration of the birth of ~~an infant~~ a newborn shall ensure that each ~~infant~~ newborn is administered tests designed to detect inborn metabolic ~~errors~~ and genetic disorders as ~~shall be~~ required ~~to be administered~~ under rules adopted by the department.

(2) The tests ~~shall~~ must be done by an approved laboratory. An approved laboratory ~~shall~~ must be the laboratory of the department or a laboratory approved by the department.

(3) The department shall contract with one or more providers qualified to provide followup services, including counseling and education, for children and parents of children identified with metabolic or genetic disorders to ensure the availability of followup services."

Section 2. Section 50-19-211, MCA, is amended to read:

"50-19-211. Statewide genetics program established. (1) A combined, comprehensive statewide genetics program is established in the department to ~~offer testing, counseling, and education to parents and prospective parents. The program includes but is not limited to the following services~~ ensure the availability of services that include but are not limited to:

~~(a) followup programs for newborn testing, with emphasis on the counseling and education of women at risk for maternal phenylketonuria;~~

~~(b)~~(a) comprehensive clinical and self-supporting laboratory genetic services, including but not limited

to cytogenetics, DNA, and special chemistry, to all areas of the state and all segments of the population;

~~(c)~~(b) ~~development of~~ counseling and testing programs for the diagnosis and management of genetic conditions ~~and metabolic disorders~~; and

~~(d)~~(c) ~~development and expansion of~~ educational programs for physicians, allied health professionals, and the public with respect to:

(i) the nature of genetic processes;

(ii) the inheritance patterns of genetic conditions; and

(iii) the means, methods, and facilities available to diagnose, counsel, and treat genetic conditions ~~and metabolic disorders~~.

(2) When the department contracts for genetics services under this section, it shall preferably contract with a single entity that is able to provide the combined, comprehensive program. The department and the contractor shall administer the contract in the most cost-effective means practicable."

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