

HB 1120 -- Shaken Baby Syndrome

Sponsor: Pratt

This bill creates the Shaken Baby Syndrome Education Act of 2004. In its main provisions, the bill:

- (1) Requires the Department of Health and Senior Services to establish and develop rules to implement an educational and awareness program concerning shaken baby syndrome;
- (2) Contains various definitions for "shaken baby syndrome," "infant," "birth center," and "commitment statement";
- (3) Requires the department to distribute understandable information and instructional materials regarding shaken baby syndrome which include the medical effects on newborns, infants, and young children;
- (4) Allows parents, adoptive parents, and legal guardians to voluntarily sign a commitment statement prior to discharge from a birth center or hospital indicating an understanding of the materials provided on shaken baby syndrome;
- (5) Requires the information and instructional materials concerning shaken baby syndrome be provided to parents and guardians without cost by licensed birth centers and hospitals; and
- (6) Requires the department to improve the capacity of home and community-based services available to victims of shaken baby syndrome. In addition, the department is required to work with appropriate local and state agencies, community and business leaders, and organizations in order to maximize public and private resources concerning the prevention of shaken baby syndrome.