
DIGEST

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HB 108 Engrossed

2019 Regular Session

Pylant

Abstract: Authorizes the installation and use of newborn safety devices at infant relinquishment sites designated in the Safe Haven Law and provides requirements and specifications relative to such devices.

Present law known as the "Safe Haven Law", Ch.C. Art. 1149 et seq., provides a mechanism whereby any parent may relinquish the care of an infant who is not more than 60 days old to the state at a designated emergency care facility in safety and anonymity and without fear of prosecution. Defines "designated emergency care facility" as any of the following:

- (1) Any state-licensed hospital.
- (2) Any of the following medical clinics during normal and customary hours of operation: local or parish public health units, licensed rural health clinics, licensed ambulatory surgical centers, and Federally Qualified Health Centers. Present law stipulates that offices, clinics, or other types of treatment facilities and offices of physicians and dentists not listed in this paragraph are not designated emergency care facilities within the meaning of present law.
- (3) Any manned fire station.
- (4) Any manned law enforcement station.
- (5) Any Child Advocacy Center accredited by the National Children's Alliance, during normal and customary hours of operation.

Present law provides that if a parent wishes to relinquish his infant, he may leave the infant in the care of any employee of a designated emergency care facility.

Proposed law retains present law.

Proposed law provides that in addition to leaving an infant in the care of an employee of a designated emergency care facility, a parent who wishes to relinquish his infant may do so using a newborn safety device at such a facility, provided that the device meets all of the following specifications:

- (1) The device has been voluntarily installed by the designated emergency care facility.
- (2) The device is physically located inside of a designated emergency care facility that is staffed

24 hours per day by a provider of medical services.

- (3) The device is located in an area that is conspicuous and visible to the employees of the designated emergency care facility.

Proposed law authorizes designated emergency care facilities that are staffed 24 hours per day by a provider of medical services to install on their premises, in areas that are conspicuous and visible to the employees of the facility, newborn safety devices. Stipulates that a designated emergency care facility which installs a newborn safety device as authorized by proposed law shall be responsible for the cost of the installation.

Proposed law requires each designated emergency care facility that installs a newborn safety device to install, additionally, an adequate dual alarm system connected to the physical location of the newborn safety device. Requires the facility to ensure all of the following with respect to the alarm system on the newborn safety device:

- (1) It is tested at least one time per week to ensure that it is in working order.
- (2) It is visually checked at least two times per day to ensure that it is in working order.

(Amends Ch.C. Arts. 1151 and 1152(A), (F)(intro. para.), (G), and (H))