



MDH Policy Initiatives Summary

Maternal and Child Health Task Force Extension (HF2294*/SF2093)

This law recodifies into statute MDH's Maternal and Child Health Task Force, which expired on June 30, 2011. The task force will continue to operate with the same statutory requirements of MS 145.881 as before expiration until June 30, 2015.

The task force will continue to provide valuable guidance and advice on public health issues impacting the maternal and child health populations; assist in meeting federal requirements related to public input for the Maternal and Child Health Block Grant; and support the five year maternal and child health needs assessment process.

The task force extension was introduced as MDH initiative HF1373/SF1135, and was amended onto the HHS Finance Omnibus bill.

Newborn Screening & Genetic Information Modifications (HF2967*/SF2558)

Newborn Screening Program. This law defines newborn screening operations, establishes a standard retention schedule for positive and negative specimens and test results, and allows for the use of newborn screening specimens for program operations during the retention period.

MDH is required to provide newborn screening information to expectant parents and/or the parents of newborns through healthcare providers on the purpose of the program and the options parents have to choose or reject screening.

Parents may authorize MDH to store and utilize blood specimens and test results beyond the standard retention period. To obtain this authorization MDH must provide parents with a detailed consent form with information regarding how the sample may be stored and used, how privacy is protected, the benefits and risks of storing the specimen and test results, and must include a Tennessee Warning.

The Commissioner must notify the public and the legislature when specimens and test results retained prior to November 16, 2011 have been destroyed.

Genetic Information Public Health Exemption.

The law delays application of the genetic information requirements under MS 13.386 to MDH programs for one year. The Commissioner is required to submit proposed legislation by January 15, 2013 to authorize collection and use of genetic information for existing activities where express authorization is not provided by law.