

AN ACT
RELATING TO HEALTH; REQUIRING HEARING SENSITIVITY TESTING
FOR ALL NEWBORN INFANTS; DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO:

Section 1. NEWBORN HEARING TESTING REQUIRED--
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH. --By July 1, 2001, the department of
health shall adopt rules to require that infants born in
health facilities licensed by the department shall be
screened for hearing sensitivity prior to being discharged.
The rules shall also require the testing of newborns brought
to licensed health facilities after birth who have not
received a hearing sensitivity screening and notification to
the parents of all screened infants of the results of the
hearing sensitivity screening. Nothing in this section
shall be construed to require screening for hearing
sensitivity of a newborn infant if the infant's parents
object to the screening on the grounds that it conflicts
with their religious beliefs.

Section 2. EMERGENCY.--It is necessary for the public
peace, health and safety that this act take effect
immediately. _____