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**OLR Bill Analysis****SB 56*****AN ACT CONCERNING PULSE OXIMETRY SCREENING FOR NEWBORN INFANTS.*****SUMMARY:**

This bill requires all health care institutions caring for newborn infants to perform a pulse oximetry test on them, unless, as allowed by law, their parents object on religious grounds. It requires the testing to be done as soon as medically appropriate. Like existing law that requires these institutions to test newborn infants for cystic fibrosis and severe combined immunodeficiency disease, the test is not part of the state's newborn screening program for genetic and metabolic disorders. That program, in addition to screening, directs parents of identified infants to counseling and treatment.

A pulse oximetry test measures how much oxygen is in the blood by placing a small light sensor on the infant's hand or foot. It is used to screen infants for critical congenital heart disease and other conditions.

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 2012

**COMMITTEE ACTION**

Public Health Committee

Joint Favorable

Yea 25      Nay 0      (03/09/2012)