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## OLR Bill Analysis

### HB 7282

#### ***AN ACT CONCERNING NEWBORN SCREENING FOR SPINAL MUSCULAR ATROPHY.***

#### **SUMMARY**

Starting January 1, 2020, this bill requires all health care institutions caring for newborn infants to test them for spinal muscular atrophy, unless a parent objects based on religious grounds. It requires the testing to be done as soon as is medically appropriate.

Like existing law that requires these institutions to test newborn infants for cystic fibrosis and critical congenital heart disease, the test for spinal muscular atrophy 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.

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 2019

#### **BACKGROUND**

##### ***Spinal Muscular Atrophy***

Spinal muscular atrophy is a genetic disease affecting the part of the nervous system that controls voluntary muscle movement. Specifically, it is a motor neuron disease that involves the loss of nerve cells in the spinal cord that may affect a person's ability to walk, eat, or breathe, among other things. The earlier the age of onset, the greater the affect the disease has on a person's motor function.

#### **COMMITTEE ACTION**

Public Health Committee

Joint Favorable

Yea 21 Nay 0 (03/22/2019)