

**HOUSE BILL NO. 1369**

Introduced by

Representatives Jensen, Delmore, Kliniske, Niemeier

Senator Thane

1 A BILL for an Act to create and enact a new section to chapter 25-17 of the North Dakota  
2 Century Code, relating to newborn infant hearing screening; and to provide an effective date.

3 **BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF NORTH DAKOTA:**

4 **SECTION 1.** A new section to chapter 25-17 of the North Dakota Century Code is  
5 created and enacted as follows:

6 **Newborn hearing tests - Duties - Reports.**

- 7 1. The physician, nurse midwife, nurse practitioner, or other individual attending a  
8 newborn infant shall provide the parent a referral to have that infant's hearing  
9 tested within thirty days of birth.
- 10 2. A physician attending a newborn with a hearing impairment shall report the case to  
11 the state department of health on the medical conditions portion of the birth record  
12 or on any other form as required by the department. Determination of a hearing  
13 impairment under this subsection must be established by applying the criteria of  
14 the joint committee on infant hearing, which is the national committee composed of  
15 representatives from the American academy of audiology, American academy of  
16 otolaryngology-head and neck surgery, American academy of pediatrics, American  
17 speech-language-hearing association, council for education of the deaf, and  
18 directors of speech and hearing programs in state health and welfare departments.
- 19 3. The state department of health and the department of human services jointly shall  
20 provide information regarding the nature of infant hearing impairment to physicians,  
21 hospital staffs, public health nurses, and state residents. Information provided  
22 under this subsection may be in the form of a written brochure or other suitable  
23 format. The information provided must address an infant's need for early detection  
24 of hearing impairment, treatments and devices available to correct hearing

1                   impairment and prevent retardation of speech and language development, and  
2                   government services available to an infant who is not covered by a health plan or  
3                   whose health plan does not cover treatment or devices to correct infant hearing  
4                   impairment.

5                   **SECTION 2. EFFECTIVE DATE.** This Act becomes effective on January 1, 2002.