MN HOUSE RESEARCH

Bill Summary

H.F. 1029

As introduced

Subject Conditions screened for under newborn screening program

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Overview

The commissioner of health administers the newborn screening program, in which newborns are screened for inherited and congenital diseases, for hearing loss, and for critical congenital heart disease. The commissioner, with advice and recommendations from the Newborn Screening Advisory Committee (NSAC), determines the inherited or congenital conditions for which newborns are screened under the program. Currently newborns are screened for more than 60 inherited or congenital conditions under this program.

This bill requires the commissioner of health to add metachromatic leukodystrophy to the list of inherited or congenital conditions for which newborns are screened under the newborn screening program. Metachromatic leukodystrophy is a rare genetic disease in which a deficiency in an enzyme that helps break down fatty substances causes these fatty substances to build up in cells, particularly the brain, spinal cord, and peripheral nerves. This buildup causes the brain and nervous system to lose function over time as the substance that covers and protects nerve cells is damaged.

Summary

Section	Description
1	**Determination of tests to be administered.** Amends § 144.125, subd. 2. Requires the commissioner of health to add metachromatic leukodystrophy to the list of conditions for which newborns are screened under the newborn screening program.