

# HOUSE RESEARCH

## Bill Summary

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### Overview

The Safe Place for Newborns law was enacted in Minnesota in 2000 and amended in 2012. It allows a mother or a person with the mother's permission to relinquish a newborn to staff at a hospital, an urgent care provider, or with an ambulance service that has responded to a 911 call from the mother or a person with the mother's permission to relinquish the newborn. The newborn must be unharmed and must be relinquished within seven days of birth.

All states have infant safe haven laws. According to statistics compiled by the Children's Bureau at the federal Department of Health and Human Services, 19 states accept infants up to one month old and 12 states accept infants who are 72 hours old or younger. Seven states allow infants to be relinquished within seven days of birth.

A mother or person acting with the mother's permission to relinquish the child is immune from prosecution if the child is relinquished within seven days of birth and is unharmed. The professional accepting the infant cannot inquire into the identity of the mother, but may ask for a medical history.

### Section

- 1 Appropriation.** Appropriates an unspecified sum from the general fund to the commissioner of human services to increase public awareness of the safe place law.