

The Florida Senate
BILL ANALYSIS AND FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT

(This document is based on the provisions contained in the legislation as of the latest date listed below.)

Prepared By: The Professional Staff of the Committee on Health Policy

BILL: CS/SB 46

INTRODUCER: Health Policy Committee; and Senators Farmer, Book, Berman, and others

SUBJECT: Eye Care for Newborns and Infants

DATE: February 11, 2020 **REVISED:** _____

	ANALYST	STAFF DIRECTOR	REFERENCE	ACTION
1.	Looke	Brown	HP	Fav/CS
2.			BI	
3.			AP	

Please see Section IX. for Additional Information:

COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE - Substantial Changes

I. Summary:

CS/SB 46 requires the Department of Health (DOH) to create an electronic pamphlet with information on the screening for, and treatment of, preventable infant and childhood eye and vision disorders. The pamphlet must be provided to new parents by hospitals providing birthing services, birth centers, and by the healthcare practitioner attending an out-of-hospital birth.

The bill has an effective date of July 1, 2020.

II. Present Situation:

Infant and Childhood Eye Disorders and Screenings

There are many eye conditions and diseases that can affect a child's vision. According to the American Academy of Ophthalmology (AAO), early diagnosis and treatment are critical to maintaining your child's eye health.¹ The AAO states that it is essential to check children's vision when they are first born and again during infancy, preschool and school years. Screening can be performed by a pediatrician, family physician or other properly trained health care provider. It is also often offered at schools, community health centers or community events.²

¹ See <https://www.aao.org/eye-health/tips-prevention/common-childhood-diseases-conditions> (last visited Feb. 7, 2020).

² See <https://www.aao.org/eye-health/tips-prevention/children-eye-screening> (last visited Feb. 7, 2020).

The AAO recommends that for each newborn an ophthalmologist, pediatrician, family doctor or other trained health professional should examine a newborn baby's eyes and perform a red reflex test (a basic indicator that the eyes are normal). An ophthalmologist should perform a comprehensive exam if the baby is premature or at high risk for medical problems for other reasons, has signs of abnormalities, or has a family history of serious vision disorders in childhood.³

Amblyopia

Amblyopia is when vision in one or both eyes does not develop properly during childhood. It is sometimes called lazy eye. Amblyopia is a common problem in babies and young children. A child's vision develops in the first few years of life. It is important to diagnose and treat amblyopia as early as possible. Otherwise, a child with amblyopia will not develop normal, healthy vision.⁴

Retinoblastoma

Retinoblastoma is a rare type of eye cancer that usually develops in early childhood, typically before the age of five. This form of cancer develops in the retina, which is the specialized light-sensitive tissue at the back of the eye that detects light and color.

In children with retinoblastoma, the disease often affects only one eye. However, one out of three children with retinoblastoma develops cancer in both eyes. The most common first sign of retinoblastoma is a visible whiteness in the pupil called "cat's eye reflex" or leukocoria. This unusual whiteness is particularly noticeable in dim light or in photographs taken with a flash or strobe. Other signs and symptoms of retinoblastoma include crossed eyes or eyes that do not point in the same direction (strabismus), which can cause squinting; a change in the color of the colored part of the eye (iris); redness, soreness, or swelling of the eyelids; and blindness or poor vision in the affected eye or eyes.

Retinoblastoma is often curable when it is diagnosed early. However, if it is not treated promptly, this cancer can spread beyond the eye to other parts of the body. This advanced form of retinoblastoma can be life-threatening.⁵ The incidence of retinoblastoma in the United States in children ages 0-14 years is about one in every 250,000 nationwide,⁶ or about 15 of the 3,791,712 births in the U.S. in 2018, as estimated by the National Center for Health Statistics.

III. Effect of Proposed Changes:

CS/SB 46 amends s. 383.14, F.S., to require the DOH to create and make available electronically an informational pamphlet with information on the screening for, and treatment of, preventable infant and childhood eye and vision disorders including, but not limited to, retinoblastoma and amblyopia.

³ *Id.*

⁴ See <https://www.ao.org/eye-health/diseases/amblyopia-lazy-eye> (last visited Feb. 7, 2020).

⁵ See <https://ghr.nlm.nih.gov/condition/retinoblastoma> (last visited Feb. 7, 2020).

⁶ See <https://cancerstatisticscenter.cancer.org/#!/data-analysis/module/t2sTupFC?type=barGraph> (last visited Feb. 7, 2020).

The bill amends ss. 383.318 and 395.1053, F.S., and creates s. 456.0496, F.S., to require that birth centers, hospitals providing birthing services, and health care practitioners attending out-of-hospital births, respectively, provide the informational pamphlet to each parent after a birth.

The bill provides an effective date of July 1, 2020.

IV. Constitutional Issues:

A. Municipality/County Mandates Restrictions:

None.

B. Public Records/Open Meetings Issues:

None.

C. Trust Funds Restrictions:

None.

D. State Tax or Fee Increases:

None.

E. Other Constitutional Issues:

None.

V. Fiscal Impact Statement:

A. Tax/Fee Issues:

None.

B. Private Sector Impact:

None.

C. Government Sector Impact:

CS/SB 46 may have an indeterminate negative fiscal impact on the DOH to create the informational pamphlet required by the bill.

VI. Technical Deficiencies:

None.

VII. Related Issues:

None.

VIII. Statutes Affected:

This bill substantially amends the following sections of the Florida Statutes: 383.14, 383.318, 395.1053.

This bill creates section 456.0496 of the Florida Statutes.

IX. Additional Information:

- A. **Committee Substitute – Statement of Substantial Changes:**
(Summarizing differences between the Committee Substitute and the prior version of the bill.)

CS by Health Policy on February 11, 2020:

The CS replaces the requirements in the underlying bill with the requirement that the DOH create an informational pamphlet with information on preventable infant and childhood eye and visions disorders. The bill requires the pamphlet to be provided to new parents by birth centers, hospitals providing birthing services, and by the healthcare practitioner attending an out-of-hospital birth.

- B. **Amendments:**

None.