

SENATE BILL NO. 710

October 28, 2021, Introduced by Senators VANDERWALL, WOJNO, OUTMAN, SANTANA, CHANG, MCMORROW, BRINKS, BULLOCK, VICTORY, RUNESTAD and SCHMIDT and referred to the Committee on Families, Seniors, and Veterans.

A bill to amend 1939 PA 288, entitled "Probate code of 1939," by amending sections 1, 2, and 3 of chapter XII (MCL 712.1, 712.2, and 712.3), sections 1 and 3 as amended by 2006 PA 488 and section 2 as added by 2000 PA 232.

THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF MICHIGAN ENACT:

1 CHAPTER XII

2 Sec. 1. (1) This chapter ~~shall be known and~~ may be cited as
3 the "safe delivery of newborns law".

1 (2) As used in this chapter:

2 (a) "Child placing agency" means that term as defined in
3 section 1 of 1973 PA 116, MCL 722.111.

4 (b) "Court" means the family division of circuit court.

5 (c) "Department" means the department of **health and** human
6 services.

7 (d) "DNA identification profile" and "DNA identification
8 profiling" mean those terms as defined in section 1 of the
9 paternity act, 1956 PA 205, MCL 722.711.

10 (e) "Domestic violence" means that term as defined in section
11 1 of 1978 PA 389, MCL 400.1501.

12 (f) "Emergency service provider" means a uniformed or
13 otherwise identified employee or contractor of a fire department,
14 hospital, or police station when that individual is inside the
15 premises and on duty. Emergency service provider also includes a
16 paramedic or an emergency medical technician when either of those
17 individuals is responding to a 9-1-1 emergency call.

18 (g) "Fire department" means an organized fire department as
19 that term is defined in section 1 of the fire prevention code, 1941
20 PA 207, MCL 29.1.

21 (h) "Gross negligence" means conduct so reckless as to
22 demonstrate a substantial lack of concern for whether an injury
23 results.

24 (i) "Hospital" means a hospital that is licensed under ~~article~~
25 ~~17-part 215~~ of the public health code, 1978 PA 368, MCL ~~333.20101~~
26 ~~to 333.22260.333.21501 to 333.21571.~~

27 (j) "Lawyer-guardian ad litem" means an attorney appointed
28 under section 2 of this chapter. A lawyer-guardian ad litem
29 represents the newborn, and has the powers and duties, as set forth

1 in section 17d of chapter XIIIA.

2 (k) "Newborn" means a child who a physician reasonably
3 believes to be not more than ~~72 hours~~ **10 days** old.

4 (l) **"Newborn safety device" means a device provided by a fire**
5 **department or hospital that conforms to the rules promulgated under**
6 **section 3a of this chapter.**

7 (m) ~~(l)~~ "Police station" means that term as defined in section
8 43 of the Michigan vehicle code, 1949 PA 300, MCL 257.43.

9 (n) ~~(m)~~ "Preplacement assessment" means an assessment of a
10 prospective adoptive parent as described in section 23f of chapter
11 X.

12 (o) ~~(n)~~ "Surrender" means to leave a newborn with an emergency
13 service provider **or a newborn safety device** without expressing an
14 intent to return for the newborn.

15 Sec. 2. (1) The court has jurisdiction over a newborn who is
16 surrendered to an emergency service provider as provided in section
17 3 of this chapter **or a newborn who is surrendered to a newborn**
18 **safety device as provided in section 3a of this chapter.** The court
19 may appoint a lawyer-guardian ad litem to represent a newborn in
20 proceedings under this chapter.

21 (2) Except as provided in section 5 of this chapter, the
22 reporting requirement of section 3 of the child protection law,
23 1975 PA 238, MCL 722.623, does not apply regarding a child
24 surrendered to an emergency service provider as provided in section
25 3 of this chapter **or to a newborn safety device as provided in**
26 **section 3a of this chapter.**

27 (3) Unless this chapter specifically provides otherwise, a
28 provision in another chapter of this act does not apply to a
29 proceeding under this chapter. Unless this chapter specifically

1 provides otherwise, the child custody act of 1970, 1970 PA 91, MCL
2 722.21 to ~~722.30~~, **722.31**, does not apply to a proceeding under this
3 chapter.

4 (4) A hospital and a child placing agency, and their agents
5 and employees, are immune in a civil action for damages for an act
6 or omission in accepting or transferring a newborn under this
7 chapter, except for an act or omission constituting gross
8 negligence or willful or wanton misconduct. To the extent not
9 protected by the immunity conferred by 1964 PA 170, MCL 691.1401 to
10 ~~691.1415~~, **691.1419**, an employee or contractor of a fire department
11 or police station has the same immunity that this subsection
12 provides to a hospital's or child placing agency's agent or
13 employee.

14 Sec. 3. (1) If a parent surrenders a child who may be a
15 newborn to an emergency service provider, the emergency service
16 provider ~~shall~~**must** comply with the requirements of this section
17 under the assumption that the child is a newborn. The emergency
18 service provider ~~shall~~, **must**, without a court order, immediately
19 accept the newborn, taking the newborn into temporary protective
20 custody. The emergency service provider ~~shall~~**must** make a
21 reasonable effort to do all of the following:

22 (a) Take action necessary to protect the physical health and
23 safety of the newborn.

24 (b) Inform the parent that by surrendering the newborn, the
25 parent is releasing the newborn to a child placing agency to be
26 placed for adoption.

27 (c) Inform the parent that the parent has 28 days to petition
28 the court to regain custody of the newborn.

29 (d) Provide the parent with written material approved by or

1 produced by the department that includes, but is not limited to,
2 all of the following statements:

3 (i) By surrendering the newborn, the parent is releasing the
4 newborn to a child placing agency to be placed for adoption.

5 (ii) The parent has 28 days after surrendering the newborn to
6 petition the court to regain custody of the newborn.

7 (iii) After the 28-day period to petition for custody elapses,
8 there will be a hearing to determine and terminate parental rights.

9 (iv) There will be public notice of this hearing, and the
10 notice will not contain the parent's name.

11 (v) The parent will not receive personal notice of this
12 hearing.

13 (vi) Information the parent provides to an emergency service
14 provider will not be made public.

15 (vii) A parent can contact the safe delivery line established
16 under section 20 of this chapter for more information.

17 (2) After providing a parent with the information described in
18 subsection (1), an emergency service provider ~~shall~~**must** make a
19 reasonable attempt to do all of the following:

20 (a) Encourage the parent to provide any relevant family or
21 medical information.

22 (b) Provide the parent with the pamphlet produced under
23 section 20 of this chapter and inform the parent that he or she can
24 receive counseling or medical attention.

25 (c) Inform the parent that information that he or she provides
26 will not be made public.

27 (d) Ask the parent to identify himself or herself.

28 (e) Inform the parent that in order to place the newborn for
29 adoption the state is required to make a reasonable attempt to

1 identify the other parent, and then ask the parent to identify the
2 other parent.

3 (f) Inform the parent that the child placing agency that takes
4 temporary protective custody of the newborn can provide
5 confidential services to the parent.

6 (g) Inform the parent that the parent may sign a release for
7 the newborn that may be used at the parental rights termination
8 hearing under this chapter.

9 **(3) If a parent surrenders a child who may be a newborn to a**
10 **newborn safety device, the fire department or hospital must proceed**
11 **as described in the rules for newborn safety devices promulgated**
12 **under section 3a of this chapter.**

13 **(4)** ~~(3)~~—A newborn whose birth is described in the born alive
14 infant protection act, 2002 PA 687, MCL 333.1071 to 333.1073, and
15 who is in a hospital setting or transferred to a hospital under
16 section 3(1) of the born alive infant protection act, 2002 PA 687,
17 MCL 333.1073, is a newborn surrendered as provided in this chapter.
18 An emergency service provider who has received a newborn under the
19 born alive infant protection act, 2002 PA 687, MCL 333.1071 to
20 333.1073, shall do all of the following:

21 (a) Comply with the requirements of subsections (1) and (2) to
22 obtain information from or supply information to the surrendering
23 parent by requesting the information from or supplying the
24 information to the attending physician who delivered the newborn.

25 (b) Make no attempt to directly contact the parent or parents
26 of the newborn.

27 (c) Provide humane comfort care if the newborn is determined
28 to have no chance of survival due to gestational immaturity in
29 light of available neonatal medical treatment or other condition

1 incompatible with life.

2 Enacting section 1. This amendatory act takes effect 90 days
3 after the date it is enacted into law.

4 Enacting section 2. This amendatory act does not take effect
5 unless Senate Bill No. 708 of the 101st Legislature is enacted into
6 law.