

MAR 9 2006
Place On Calendar

HOUSE FILE 2724
BY COMMITTEE ON HUMAN RESOURCES

(SUCCESSOR TO HF 2350)

Passed House, Date _____ Passed Senate, Date _____
Vote: Ayes _____ Nays _____ Vote: Ayes _____ Nays _____
Approved _____

A BILL FOR

1 An Act providing for the establishment of a program encouraging
2 health care providers to test children for lead poisoning and
3 providing a means for the department to serve as the payor of
4 last resort.

5 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF IOWA:

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HF 2724

1 Section 1. NEW SECTION. 135.105D BLOOD LEAD TESTING --
2 PROVIDER EDUCATION -- PAYOR OF LAST RESORT.

3 1. For purposes of this section:

4 a. "Blood lead testing" means taking a capillary or venous
5 sample of blood and sending it to a laboratory to determine
6 the level of lead in the blood.

7 b. "Capillary" means a blood sample taken from the finger
8 or heel for lead analysis.

9 c. "Health care provider" means a physician who is
10 licensed under chapter 148, 150, or 150A, or a person who is
11 licensed as a physician assistant under chapter 148C, or as an
12 advanced registered nurse practitioner.

13 d. "Venous" means a blood sample taken from a vein in the
14 arm for lead analysis.

15 2. The department shall work with health care provider
16 associations to educate health care providers regarding
17 requirements for testing children who are enrolled in certain
18 federally funded programs and regarding department
19 recommendations for testing other children for lead poisoning.

20 3. The department shall implement blood lead testing for
21 children under six years of age who are not eligible for the
22 testing services to be paid by a third-party source. The
23 department shall contract with one or more public health
24 laboratories to provide blood lead analysis for such children.
25 The department shall establish by rule the procedures for
26 health care providers to submit samples to the contracted
27 public health laboratories for analysis. The department shall
28 also establish by rule a method to reimburse health care
29 providers for drawing blood samples from such children and the
30 dollar amount that the department will reimburse health care
31 providers for the service. Payment for blood lead analysis
32 and drawing blood samples shall be limited to the amount
33 appropriated for the program in a fiscal year.

34 EXPLANATION

35 This bill establishes a blood lead testing requirement

1 applicable to health care providers under specified
2 circumstances.

3 The bill directs the Iowa department of public health to
4 work with health care provider associations to educate health
5 care providers, as defined in the bill, regarding requirements
6 for blood lead testing of children who are enrolled in certain
7 federally funded programs, and regarding department
8 recommendations for testing other children for lead poisoning.

9 The bill provides that the department shall implement blood
10 lead testing for children under six years of age who are not
11 eligible for the testing services to be paid by a third-party
12 source. The bill specifies that the department shall contract
13 with one or more public health laboratories to provide blood
14 lead analysis, shall establish by rule the procedures for
15 health care providers to submit samples to the contracted
16 public health laboratories for analysis, and shall establish
17 by rule a method to reimburse health care providers for
18 drawing blood samples. The bill provides that payment for
19 blood lead analysis and drawing blood samples shall be limited
20 to an amount as appropriated for the program.

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Fiscal Services Division
Legislative Services Agency
Fiscal Note

HF 2724 - Lead Testing of Blood (LSB 6270 HV)
Analyst: Lisa Burk (Phone: [515] 281-7942) (lisa.burk@legis.state.ia.us)
Fiscal Note Version - New

Description

House File 2724 directs the Department of Public Health to work with health care provider associations to provide education to health care providers regarding blood lead testing for children enrolled in certain federally funded programs. The Bill also requires the Department to implement blood lead testing for children under age six who are not covered by a third party source for payment.

In addition, HF 2724 requires the Department of Public Health to contract with one or more public health laboratories to provide blood lead analysis, and to establish administrative rules on the procedures health care providers are to follow to submit samples for analysis, as well as rules for reimbursement of providers for drawing blood samples. The payment for drawing blood samples and conducting analysis is limited to the amount appropriated for the Program.

Background

Currently, the Department of Public Health receives an estimated total of \$1.1 million to reduce the prevalence of lead poisoning in children, which includes \$659,000 in federal funds, \$353,000 in State General Funds, and \$76,000 in funding from the Healthy Iowans Tobacco Trust.

The Department estimates that approximately 50,000 children under age six are currently tested for lead poisoning each year. Of these, the Department pays for laboratory analysis for an estimated 9,000 children not covered by Medicaid and not covered by another source of payment.

Assumptions

1. The federal Centers for Disease Control (CDC) no longer permits costs for drawing blood and lead analysis for children to be paid from federal CDC grant funds; therefore, these costs will be paid for with 100.0% State funds.
2. The Department of Public Health will pay for drawing blood and lead analysis for an additional 10,000 children each year not covered by Medicaid or private insurance.
3. The cost to draw blood will be \$5 per child for a total cost of \$50,000 per year.
4. The cost to conduct laboratory blood analysis will be \$11 per child for a total cost of \$110,000 per year.

Fiscal Impact

The estimated cost of HF 2724 is an increase in General Fund expenditures of \$160,000 annually for the Department of Public Health beginning in FY 2007.

House File 2734 (FY 2007 Health and Human Services Appropriations Bill) currently provides a General Fund increase of \$200,000 in the Environmental Hazards appropriation for childhood lead prevention activities. The Bill has not yet been enacted.

Source

Department of Public Health

/s/ Holly M. Lyons

March 9, 2006

The fiscal note and correctional impact statement for this bill was prepared pursuant to Joint Rule 17 and pursuant to Section 2.56, Code of Iowa. Data used in developing this fiscal note and correctional impact statement are available from the Fiscal Services Division, Legislative Services Agency to members of the Legislature upon request.
