

BILL ANALYSIS

Senate Research Center
84R20081 SCL-F

H.B. 2574
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Health & Human Services
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Engrossed

AUTHOR'S / SPONSOR'S STATEMENT OF INTENT

The death of a child due to prolonged heat exposure while left unattended in a motor vehicle is as unacceptable as it is avoidable. Concerned parties assert that such a tragedy is largely due to a caregiver's lack of awareness of the dangers of leaving children in cars, even during moderately hot weather. H.B. 2574 seeks to address this issue by furthering awareness of the dangers of leaving a child unattended in a vehicle in warm weather conditions.

H.B. 2574 amends current law relating to increasing awareness of the danger of heatstroke for a child left unattended in a motor vehicle.

RULEMAKING AUTHORITY

This bill does not expressly grant any additional rulemaking authority to a state officer, institution, or agency.

SECTION BY SECTION ANALYSIS

SECTION 1. Amends Section 161.501(a), Health and Safety Code, as follows:

(a) Requires a hospital, birthing center, physician, nurse midwife, or midwife who provides prenatal care to a pregnant woman during gestation or at delivery of an infant to:

(1) provide the woman and the father of the infant, if possible, or another adult caregiver for the infant, with a resource pamphlet that includes:

(A)-(E) Makes no change to these paragraphs;

(F) educational information in both English and Spanish on pertussis disease and the availability of a vaccine to protect against pertussis, including information on the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention recommendation that parents receive Tdap during the postpartum period to protect newborns from the transmission of pertussis; and

(G) the danger of heatstroke for a child left unattended in a motor vehicle;

(2)-(4) Makes no change to these subdivisions.

SECTION 2. (a) Requires the Department of State Health Services, not later than December 1, 2015, to make the informational materials required by Section 161.501(a)(1), Health and Safety Code, as amended by this Act, available on its Internet website.

(b) Provides that, notwithstanding Section 161.501(a)(1)(G), Health and Safety Code, as added by this Act, a facility is not required to comply with that provision until January 1, 2016.

SECTION 3. Effective date: September 1, 2015.