

It is hereby enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Vermont:

Sec. 1. 18 V.S.A. § 5087 is amended to read:

18 V.S.A. § 5087. Establishment of birth information network

(a) The Commissioner of Health shall establish a statewide birth information network designed to identify newborns who have specified health conditions which may respond to early intervention and treatment by the health care system.

(b) The Department of Health is authorized to collect information for the birth information network for the purpose of preventing and controlling disease, injury, and disability. The Commissioner of Health, in collaboration with appropriate partners, shall coordinate existing data systems and records to enhance the network's comprehensiveness and effectiveness, including:

- (1) vital records (birth, death, and fetal death certificates);
- (2) the children with special health needs database;
- (3) newborn metabolic screening;
- (4) universal newborn hearing screening;
- (5) the Hearing Outreach Program;
- (6) a voluntary developmental screening test;
- (7) the cancer registry;
- (Etcetera)

18 V.S.A. § 5087 is amended to read:

V.S.A. § 115. ~~Chronic diseases; study; program~~ Public Health Surveillance Assessment and Planning

(a) The Department of Health may, in the discretion of the Commissioner, accept for treatment children who have chronic diseases or developmental disabilities ~~such as cystic fibrosis and severe hemophilia.~~

(b) ~~The State Board of Health~~ The Commissioner of Health is authorized to:

(1) study the prevalence of chronic disease;

(2) make such morbidity studies as may be necessary to evaluate the over-all problem of chronic disease and developmental disabilities;

(3) develop an early case-finding program, in cooperation with the medical profession;

(4) Adopt rules for the purposes of including, but not limited, to the screening for chronic diseases or developmental disabilities;

(45) develop and carry on an educational program as to the causes, prevention and alleviation of chronic disease and developmental disabilities;

~~(5) integrate this program with that of the State rehabilitation center where possible, by seeking the early referral of persons with chronic disease, who could benefit from the State rehabilitation program.~~

(c) ~~The State Board of Health~~ Department of Health is directed to consult and cooperate with the medical profession and interested official and voluntary agencies and societies in the development of this program.

(d) ~~The Board~~ Health Department of Health is authorized to accept contributions or gifts which are given to the State for any of the purposes as stated in this section, and the Department is authorized to charge and retain monies to offset the cost of providing newborn screening program services.

~~18 V.S.A. § 115a. Chronic diseases of children; treatment~~

~~The Department of Health may, in the discretion of the Commissioner, accept for treatment children who have chronic diseases such as cystic fibrosis.~~