

HOUSE RESEARCH

Bill Summary

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Overview

This bill changes the timeframe under which an unharmed newborn may be received by a hospital. It allows law enforcement or emergency responder personnel to receive an unharmed newborn. It prohibits local social service agencies and the Department of Human Services from conducting searches for relatives of newborns received by a hospital under the safe place for newborns statute.

Section

1 General. Amends § 145.902, subd. 1.

- Allows a newborn to be left with a hospital employee within seven days of birth. Current law allows a newborn to be left with a hospital employee within 72 hours of birth.
- Adds that a mother who gives birth at the hospital may leave her newborn at the hospital; prohibits the hospital from disclosing the mother's identity.
- Adds that the parent of a newborn or an interested person may call 911 or an emergency medical services provider and relinquish care of the newborn to the law enforcement officer or emergency medical services provider who responds.

2 Relative search; nature. Amends § 260C.212, subd. 5. Prohibits the local social service

Section

agency from conducting a search for the mother or relatives of a newborn received by a hospital under section 145.902, the safe place for newborns statute.

- 3** **Duty to attempt reunification, duty to search for relatives, and preferences not applicable.** Amends § 260C.217, subd. 1. Prohibits the local social service agency and the commissioner of human services from searching for relatives of an infant received by a hospital under section 145.902 if the agency does not have information as to the identity of the child, the child's mother, or the child's father.