HB 555: Relative to Shaken Baby Syndrome

Title/Introduction: AN ACT Relative to Shaken Baby Syndrome

History/Context: This bill requires hospitals to provide new parents with information on shaken baby syndrome. The Bill also requires day care providers to participate in training for Shaken Baby Syndrome as part of licensure process.

Background: Shaken Baby Syndrome/Abusive Head Trauma is the most common type of child abuse in the nation. The trigger for this type of trauma is thought to be parent/care giver frustration about baby crying, and inability to console a baby. The head of a baby is large in comparison the small neck and weak musculature of the neck. Baby is shaken, whiplash to head and cranial contents results in brain damage and a lifetime of disability. 25% of children with this type of injury die as a result of the trauma.

This bill requires that each family being discharged from a hospital view a video presentation on SBS (also known as Abusive Head Trauma). The Bill stipulates that the parents sign a form stating that they have viewed the video. The training for implementation and materials will be borne by the Department of Health and Human Services under a contract with Children’s Hospital at Dartmouth. The Bill identifies 12,000 newborns/year and $5 per kit (video) pricing for a total fiscal impact of approximately $69,000/year.

Pros:

- Positive impact to the overall public health (National impact of SBS/AHT: $16.8 billion annually
- NH incidence 5-10 cases/year. National numbers: 1300-1400/year.
- One study, done in British Columbia, demonstrated a 35% reduction in SBS after implementation of Period of Purple Crying learning module.

Cons:

- Education via the use of Period of Purple Crying is happening in most NH hospitals already (all delivery services except one), so is there need for this legislation?
- Language in the Bill is ambiguous about child day care centers, such that if the child care center does not care for infants, do they have need for this training?

Complexity:

- Video is available in English, Spanish and French. No provision for other languages and cost for those language interpreters for video.
- No provision in language of the bill about first-time and subsequent-child documentation of view of video.
• Bill states that parents “sign a form”, Electronic health records used throughout health care, so form would need to include integration in EMRs.


**Committee:** House Health, Human Services and Elderly Affairs

**Position of the CGA:** Supports the intent of HB 555 recognizing of the above pros, cons and complexities.

[Click here](#) to access HB 555 on the NH General Court website.

The House HHS&EA Committee held a hearing on this bill on January 22, 2019. NHNA attended this hearing. Executive session of HHS&EA was held on 2-12-19. The House HHS&EA Committee voted (19-1) **Inexpedient to Legislate.**