
A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO HUMAN SERVICES.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF HAWAII:

1 SECTION 1. The legislature finds that sudden unexpected
2 infant death is a broad term that refers to the sudden death of
3 an infant less than one year of age where the specific cause of
4 death is not immediately obvious prior to investigation.
5 According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention,
6 more than 4,500 sudden unexpected infant deaths occur in the
7 United States every year. The specific cause of death may
8 include but not be limited to sudden infant death syndrome,
9 infection, accidental suffocation, poisoning or overdose, or
10 metabolic disorders. Sudden infant death syndrome, the sudden
11 death of an infant less than one year of age where the death
12 cannot be explained even after a thorough investigation is
13 conducted, accounts for half of the sudden unexpected infant
14 deaths that occur in the United States every year and is the
15 leading cause of death among infants one year of age or younger.
16 According to a Mayo Clinic web article, "[t]he exact cause is
17 unknown, but sudden infant death syndrome may be associated with



1 abnormalities in the portion of an infant's brain that controls
2 breathing and arousal from sleep. Although all babies are
3 vulnerable, certain sleep environments have been linked to
4 increased risk. Perhaps the most important way to reduce the
5 risk of sudden infant death syndrome is to place your baby on
6 his or her back to sleep, on a firm crib mattress covered by a
7 fitted sheet. Nothing else should go in the crib with your
8 baby – no blanket, pillow, bumper pads or toys." The Centers
9 for Disease Control and Prevention, Division of Reproductive
10 Health, recognizes sudden infant death syndrome and sudden
11 unexpected infant deaths as a public health issue and has
12 established the Sudden Unexpected Infant Death Initiative to
13 address the problem by improving investigation and reporting
14 practices of sudden infant death syndrome and sudden unexpected
15 infant deaths. The Initiative includes improving data
16 collection and reporting regarding sudden unexpected infant
17 deaths, using improved data to identify those at risk of sudden
18 unexpected infant death, and training professionals to conduct
19 comprehensive infant death investigations, with the hope that
20 better data and the consistent classification of causes of death



1 The legislature also finds that sudden unexpected infant
2 deaths and sudden infant death syndrome are preventable through
3 safe sleep policies that address causes of death that are
4 associated with sudden unexpected infant deaths, such as
5 accidental suffocation, and incorporate elements of the Sudden
6 Unexpected Infant Death Initiative. However, Hawaii is one of
7 nine states that do not regulate the proper sleep positions of
8 infants and toddlers under the care of child care centers or
9 family care homes.

10 The purpose of this Act is to require operators of child
11 care facilities, which include family child care homes, group
12 child care centers, group child care homes, and infant and
13 toddler child care centers, that care for children less than one
14 year of age to comply with additional requirements for safe
15 sleep policies to prevent the occurrence of sudden unexpected
16 infant deaths and sudden infant death syndrome.

17 SECTION 2. Section 346-152.7, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
18 amended to read as follows:

19 " ~~[§]~~346-152.7 ~~[§]~~ **Safe sleep policy.** (a) All child care
20 facilities, which include family child care homes, group child
21 care centers, and group child care homes, as those terms are



1 defined in section 346-151, and infant and toddler child care
2 centers, that are registered or licensed by the department to
3 provide care for children less than one year of age shall
4 implement and maintain a written safe sleep policy in accordance
5 with any rules that may be adopted by the department to
6 implement the provisions of this section. The purpose of the
7 safe sleep policy shall be to maintain a safe sleep environment
8 that prevents the occurrence of sudden infant death syndrome and
9 sudden unexpected infant deaths in children less than one year
10 of age.

11 (b) Each safe sleep policy shall require operators of each
12 respective child care facility, which includes family child care
13 homes, group child care centers, group child care homes, and
14 infant and toddler child care centers, to place a child less
15 than one year of age on the child's back for sleeping, unless
16 the operator of the respective child care facility obtains a
17 written waiver of this requirement from a health care
18 professional, as defined in rules adopted by the department.

19 (c) The operator of the child care facility, family child
20 care home, group child care center, group child care home, or
21 infant and toddler child care center, as applicable, shall



1 discuss the safe sleep policy with the child's parent or legal
2 guardian before the child is enrolled in the child care
3 facility, home, or center. The child's parent or legal guardian
4 shall sign a statement attesting that the parent or legal
5 guardian received a copy of the safe sleep policy and that the
6 policy was discussed with the parent or legal guardian before
7 the child's enrollment.

8 (d) The operator and all employees of an operator of a
9 child care facility, which includes family child care homes,
10 group child care centers, group child care homes, and infant and
11 toddler child care centers, shall complete training in safe
12 sleep practices. The department shall conduct the training.

13 (e) Every child care facility, family child care home,
14 group child care center, group child care home, and infant and
15 toddler child care center shall promptly report to the
16 department the death of a child less than one year of age that
17 occurs while in the facility, home, or center's care.

18 ~~(b)~~ (f) As used in this section:

19 "Sudden infant death syndrome" means the sudden death of an
20 infant less than one year of age that cannot be explained after
21 a thorough investigation has been conducted, including a



H.B. NO. 1923

1 complete autopsy, an examination of the death scene, and a
2 review of the clinical history.

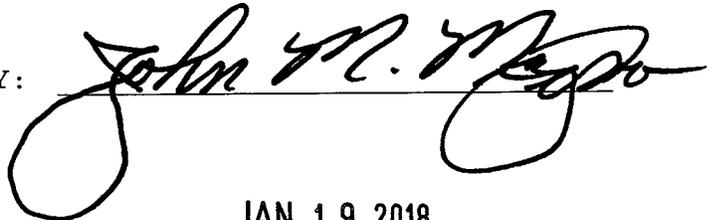
3 "Sudden unexpected infant death" means the sudden and
4 unexpected death of an infant less than one year of age in which
5 the manner and cause of death are not immediately obvious prior
6 to investigation. Causes of sudden unexpected infant death
7 include but are not limited to metabolic disorders, hypothermia
8 or hyperthermia, neglect or homicide, poisoning, and accidental
9 suffocation."

10 SECTION 3. Statutory material to be repealed is bracketed
11 and stricken. New statutory material is underscored.

12 SECTION 4. This Act shall take effect upon its approval.

13

INTRODUCED BY:



JAN 19 2018



H.B. NO. 1923

Report Title:

Sudden Infant Death Syndrome; Sudden Unexpected Infant Death;
Safe Sleep Policy

Description:

Requires operators of child care facilities, including family child care homes, group child care centers, and group child care homes, and infant and toddler child care centers that care for children less than 1 year of age to comply with additional requirements for safe sleep policies to prevent sudden unexpected infant deaths and sudden infant death syndrome in accordance with rules adopted by DHS.

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