



STATE REPRESENTATIVE PAULA PIERSON
DISTRICT 93

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NEWBORN DISEASE SCREENING BILLS PASS HOUSE & SENATE

*"GREYSON'S LAW" BY REPRESENTATIVE PAULA PIERSON WILL EXPAND PROGRAMS SCREENING
NEWBORNS FOR DETECTABLE DISEASES AND DISORDERS*

AUSTIN – Today, House Bill 1795, authored by Representative Paula Pierson (D - Arlington, Grand Prairie, Mansfield) unanimously passed the Texas House of Representatives. The bill's companion in the Senate, SB 1720, also passed that chamber. HB 1795, also known as "Greyson's Law," will expand the newborn screening program in Texas and create a Newborn Screening Advisory Panel.

Under current law, Texas only tests newborns for 27 of the detectable disorders identified by the American College of Medical Genetics. HB 1795, named "Greyson's Law" after Greyson Morris who died six days before his first birthday of a rare but detectable genetic disorder, would expand newborn screening in Texas to include 23 additional disorders identified by ACMG.

"What happened to Greyson should not happen to any other child," stated Rep. Pierson. **"We have the capacity to prevent these tragedies by detecting and treating more diseases at birth. This bill allows us to realize that capacity, and end unnecessary suffering."**

The bill also establishes a Newborn Screening Advisory Panel. The panel, consisting of health-care professionals and persons impacted by detectable diseases, will advise the Department of State Health Services on strategic planning, policy, rules, and services related to newborn screening.

"The establishment of this panel will ensure that Texas remains on the cutting edge of preventative medicine for infants," said Rep. Pierson. **"By putting together a group of specialists dedicated to studying this issue, our state will ensure that it never again falls behind in caring for its newborns."**

"Greyson's Law marks the beginning of a new chapter for children born in our state," continued Rep. Pierson. **"No longer will Texas families have to worry about their children being born without sufficient protection. I thank my fellow members for voting unanimously for HB 1795, and the members of the Senate for the passage of SB 1720. Today, the state of Texas stood up to defend its most vulnerable citizens: its children."**

Following passage in both chambers, the bill will be sent to the desk of Governor Perry to await his signature.