



SR-48 (2021-2022)

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ENROLLED SEPTEMBER 02, 2021

PASSED IN SENATE SEPTEMBER 01, 2021

CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE— 2021–2022 REGULAR SESSION

SENATE RESOLUTION

NO. 48

Introduced by Senator Limón

August 16, 2021

Relative to Newborn Falls Awareness Week.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SR 48, Limón.

WHEREAS, A 2010 Joint Commission Journal on Quality and Patient Safety estimates that 600 to 1,600 newborn falls take place per year in the United States; and

WHEREAS, Reports of newborn falls in hospitals have increased by over 600 percent in the last decade; and

WHEREAS, Studies have repeatedly drawn attention to the increased risk and incidence of newborn falls as a result of mothers being responsible for care while they themselves are recovering from anesthesia and giving birth; and

WHEREAS, Newborn falls in the hospital remain underrecognized and underreported by health care professionals and caregivers; and

WHEREAS, Newborn falls occur due to a multitude of factors that impact a child's safety and a parent's ability to provide care; and

WHEREAS, Over one-half of parents deliver their newborns without a spouse by their side; and

WHEREAS, In a survey between 2015 to 2017, inclusive, the American Academy of Pediatrics found that infant falls identified through the hospital adverse reporting system were associated with postpartum fatigue and with common efforts to promote breast feeding, including rooming-in practices; and

WHEREAS, The American Journal of Maternal Child Nursing reports that newborns are at an increased risk of falling when left with their mothers because of unstable ambulation or increased drowsiness from medication; and

WHEREAS, Insurance companies no longer reimburse hospitals for in-hospital patient falls because these incidents are preventable; and

WHEREAS, Hospitals are not required to implement policies for preventing newborn falls, making newborns the only instance where a patient is expected to provide care to another patient; and

WHEREAS, Newborn falls result not only in severe harm and risk of death to the newborn, but cause mental and emotional trauma to recovering parents, caretakers, and hospitals; and

WHEREAS, Facilities should implement and utilize a standardized risk assessment for falls upon admission, in addition to a tracking system that will monitor the occurrence of newborn falls; now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Senate of the State of California, That the Senate hereby proclaims the third week of September as Newborn Falls Awareness Week in order to increase awareness and action about newborn falls and drops; and be it further

Resolved, That the Secretary of the Senate transmit copies of this resolution to the author for distribution.