

Bill to protect children from parental drug, alcohol abuse moves to the Senate KUTV

by McKenzie Stauffer

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<https://kutv.com/news/local/bill-to-protect-children-from-parental-alcohol-drug-abuse-moves-to-the-senate>

(KUTV) — The Utah House of Representatives passed a bill aimed at protecting children from drug and alcohol abuse.

H.B. 244, sponsored by Rep. Merrill Nelson (R-Grantsville), was introduced to the Senate Tuesday. The Fetal Exposure Reporting and Treatment Amendments clarify what healthcare providers, who believe a child is being exposed to drugs or alcohol, should do. This includes substance abuse by pregnant women, parents and childcare providers.

Substance abuse, as defined by the amendment, means the "misuse or excessive use of alcohol or other drugs or substances." This does not include drugs that are "obtained by lawful prescription and used as prescribed," or "obtained by in accordance with the Utah Medical Cannabis Act and used as recommended by a qualified medical provider."

The bill also directs state agencies to create a program to reduce drug or alcohol abuse during pregnancy.

ACLU of Utah
@acluutah

Another #utleg bill that caught our eye... #HB244 would expand the scope for #ut healthcare providers to report drug and alcohol use by pregnant women, parents, and childcare providers to investigators - @Intermountain @UofUHealth @Utahmed #utpol

ACTION ALERT

A new bill was introduced:
H.B. 244
Fetal Exposure Reporting and Treatment Amendments

This bill would expand the requirements and situations for healthcare providers to report drug or alcohol usage by pregnant women, new parents, or childcare providers to the state Division of Child and Family Services.

Rep. Merrill Nelson
(R-Grantsville)

2 7:15 AM - Feb 4, 2020

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