

Date of Hearing: August 13, 2026

ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE ON RULES

Blanca Pacheco, Chair

HR 135 (Celeste Rodriguez) – As Introduced August 6, 2026

SUBJECT: Neonatal Intensive Care Unit Awareness Month.

SUMMARY: Declares the month of September 2026 as Neonatal Intensive Care Unit Awareness Month; and, recognizes the challenges faced by families whose newborns require care in a Neonatal Intensive Care Unit and acknowledges the resilience demonstrated by those families during periods of hospitalization and recovery. Specifically, **this resolution** makes the following legislative findings:

- 1) According to the data from the State Department of Public Health, 48,000 to 54,000 infants, inclusive, representing approximately 11 to 13 percent, inclusive, of all live births in California, require admission to Neonatal Intensive Care Units (NICUs) annually.
- 2) According to the data from the State Department of Public Health, approximately 17,500 to 22,500, inclusive, of those infants experience prolonged NICU stays exceeding two weeks in duration.
- 3) California's State Disability Insurance (SDI) program and the Paid Family Leave (PFL) program were designed to provide wage replacement benefits for parents during the period surrounding childbirth.
- 4) Under current law, SDI provides up to four weeks of benefits before the expected date of delivery and up to six weeks after delivery for vaginal births and up to eight weeks for cesarean deliveries, while PFL provides up to eight weeks of partially paid leave.
- 5) Families with infants receiving care in NICUs often face significant emotional, physical, logistical, and financial challenges while navigating extended hospital stays and complex medical circumstances.
- 6) Research in child development and maternal-infant attachment demonstrates that the bonding period immediately following an infant's discharge from medical care is critical for establishing and promoting long-term emotional and psychological well-being for both infant and parent.
- 7) Research in maternal bonding demonstrates that longer bonding times reduce maternal postpartum depression, anxiety, and stress-related disorders, thereby generating positive health outcomes for both mothers and infants.

FISCAL EFFECT: This resolution is keyed non-fiscal by Legislative Counsel.

REGISTERED SUPPORT / OPPOSITION:

Support

None on file

Opposition

None on file

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