



**KENTUCKY YMCA YOUTH ASSOCIATION
KENTUCKY YOUTH ASSEMBLY
Commonwealth Bill**

Red | CW 33

**Referred to Committee:
House 3**

Authors: Alyssa Willett, Emma Mattingly, Maddie Richards, Ella Hamilton

School: St. Joseph School - Bardstown

City: Bardstown

Action on the Bill

House

Senate

___ Passed

___ Passed

___ Defeated

___ Defeated

1 An act to amend law KRS 211.676 to require mothers of infants with NAS to be charged with child
2 abuse.
3

4 **Be it enacted by the Youth Assembly of the Commonwealth of Kentucky**

5
6 Section 1: Amend law KRS 211.676 to require all mothers of infants diagnosed with Neonatal
7 Abstinence Syndrome (NAS) to be charged with child abuse instead of the rehab stated in the standing
8 law; hence being sent to prison for one (1) to ten (10) years depending on the severity. This is to be
9 determined by the judge.

10
11 Section 2: Neonatal Abstinence Syndrome (NAS) is a term for a group of problems a baby experiences
12 when withdrawn from exposure to narcotics; usually opiates, drugs with morphine like effects, such as
13 heroin and methadone.
14

15 Section 3: Neonatal Abstinence Syndrome (NAS) is caused when alcohol or drugs pass through the
16 mother's bloodstream into the baby's, causing a premature "addiction." This "addiction" continues after
17 birth and can cause tremors, crying, and in some cases, death.
18

19 Section 4: A test will be administered to the newly born child if any symptoms of NAS occur or if there
20 is anything else wrong with the child.
21

22 Section 5: This law applies to any mother who consumed drugs or alcohol while pregnant whose child
23 was then diagnosed with NAS (Neonatal Abstinence Syndrome).
24

25 Section 6: This bill will have no additional cost. The hospital would do the test on the baby with
26 suspected symptoms, regardless of this law.
27

28 Section 7: The Kentucky Cabinet For Health and Family Services will enforce this bill and will notify the
29 local police department to press charges on the mother accordingly and the court and arrest process
30 would begin when appropriate.
31

32 Section 8: Failure for hospitals to report three (3) offenses or more in three (3) years will result in a
33 shutdown of the obstetric unit (OB) for a time of six (6) months.
34

35 Section 9: This bill will go into effect three (3) months after passage.