To amend the Public Health Service Act to provide for systematic data collection, analysis, and epidemiological research regarding neonatal abstinence syndrome.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “Protecting Newborns from Opioids Act”.

S. 2658

115TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

APRIL 12, 2018

Mr. NELSON (for himself and Mr. RUBIO) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions

A BILL

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,
SEC. 2. NEONATAL ABSTINENCE SYNDROME RESEARCH AND SURVEILLANCE.

Title III of the Public Health Service Act is amended by inserting after section 317L–1 (42 U.S.C. 247b–13a) the following:

“SEC. 317L–2. NEONATAL ABSTINENCE SYNDROME RESEARCH AND SURVEILLANCE.

“(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary, acting through the Director of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (referred to in this section as the ‘Director’), shall—

“(1) award grants to States to create or improve surveillance systems for neonatal abstinence syndrome, and analyze the data collected through such State systems; and

“(2) conduct research on the prevention, factors surrounding, and health outcomes of neonatal abstinence syndrome.

“(b) NAS SURVEILLANCE.—

“(1) STATE GRANT PROGRAM.—To provide support to States receiving grants under subsection (a)(1), the Secretary shall (directly or through grants or cooperative agreements to public and non-profit private entities)—

“(A) cooperate with and assist States in implementing a State-wide surveillance system
to rapidly determine the incidence and prevalence of neonatal abstinence syndrome;

“(B) include demographics and other information, such as race, ethnicity, geographic location, and family history;

“(C) provide technical assistance to States to improve identification of neonatal abstinence syndrome;

“(D) ensure a pathway for data sharing between States and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention; and

“(E) ensure that data collection is consistent with applicable State and Federal privacy laws.

“(2) CDC RESEARCH.—The Director shall—

“(A) collect data on neonatal abstinence syndrome that States gather using grant funds under subsection (a)(1);

“(B) conduct analysis of such data to identify national trends; and

“(C) issue public reports on such analysis.

“(c) NAS RESEARCH.—In carrying out subsection (a)(2), the Secretary shall conduct new studies, or capitalize on existing studies, to research—
“(1) long-term physical, educational, and neuro-developmental outcomes of children affected by neonatal abstinence syndrome;

“(2) the prevalence of, and reasons for, opioid use among women who are pregnant or may become pregnant; and

“(3) the comparative effectiveness of available treatment protocols for infants affected by neonatal abstinence syndrome.

“(d) Authorization of Appropriations.—To carry out this section, there is authorized to be appropriated such sums as may be necessary for each of fiscal years 2019 through 2023.”.