Florida Senate - 2002

CS for SB 1628

By the Committee on Health, Aging and Long-Term Care; and Senator Pruitt

317-1938A-02 A bill to be entitled 1 2 An act relating to immunizations; creating s. 3 381.0421, F.S.; requiring that individuals enrolled in a postsecondary educational 4 5 institution be provided information regarding б meningococcal meningitis, diphtheria, tetanus, and hepatitis B vaccines and, if residing in 7 8 on-campus housing, provide documentation of vaccination against meningococcal meningitis, 9 diphtheria, tetanus, and hepatitis B, or a 10 11 statement declining such vaccination; providing an effective date. 12 13 WHEREAS, meningococcal meningitis is a serious disease 14 15 that can lead to death within a few hours of onset, and 16 WHEREAS, meningococcal meningitis is a highly 17 contagious but largely preventable infection of the 18 spinal-cord fluid and the fluid that surrounds the brain, and 19 WHEREAS, one in ten cases of meningococcal meningitis 20 is fatal, and WHEREAS, one in seven survivors is left with a severe 21 22 handicap, such as loss of a limb, mental retardation, 23 paralysis, deafness, or seizures, and WHEREAS, individuals of any age can carry the disease 24 25 for days, weeks, or months unknowingly or without becoming 26 ill, and 27 WHEREAS, at any time, from 10 to 25 percent of the 28 population carries meningococcal meningitis, and 29 WHEREAS, scientific evidence suggests that college 30 students living in dormitory facilities are six times more 31 1

CODING: Words stricken are deletions; words underlined are additions.

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    likely than other individuals to contract meningococcal
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   meningitis, and
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          WHEREAS, immunization against meningococcal meningitis
   will decrease the risk of disease, and
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           WHEREAS, the Legislature urges that college freshmen
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   residing in on-campus housing be vaccinated against
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   meningococcal meningitis, NOW, THEREFORE,
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   Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:
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           Section 1. Section 381.0421, Florida Statutes, is
    created to read:
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           381.0421 Vaccination against meningococcal meningitis,
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    diphtheria, tetanus, and hepatitis B.--
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          (1) A postsecondary educational institution shall
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   provide detailed information concerning the risks associated
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    with meningococcal meningitis, diphtheria, tetanus, and
    hepatitis B and the availability, effectiveness, and known
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    contraindications of any required or recommended vaccine to
    every student, or to the student's parent or guardian if the
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    student is a minor, who has been accepted for admission.
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          (2) An individual enrolled in a postsecondary
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    educational institution who will be residing in on-campus
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    housing shall provide documentation of vaccinations against
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    meningococcal meningitis, diphtheria, tetanus, and hepatitis B
    unless the individual, if the individual is 18 years of age or
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    older, or the individual's parent or guardian, if the
    individual is a minor, declines the vaccinations and the
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    individual, parent, or guardian signs a waiver, provided by
    the institution, acknowledging receipt and review of the
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   information provided.
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(3) This section does not require any postsecondary educational institution to provide or pay for vaccinations against meningococcal meningitis, diphtheria, tetanus, and hepatitis B. Section 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 2002. б STATEMENT OF SUBSTANTIAL CHANGES CONTAINED IN COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE FOR SB 1628 The Committee Substitute does not require immunization against meningitis for postsecondary students who live on campus, but rather requires the institutions to inform them of the risks of the disease and the benefits and risks associated with the vaccine. In addition, the institutions must inform the students of the risks of diphtheria, tetanus, and hepatitis B and the benefits and risks associated with the vaccines for those diseases. A student is required to show proof of vaccination for these diseases or to sign a waiver. The parent of a minor student would sign the waiver. of a minor student would sign the waiver. The Department of Health is not required to adopt rules.

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