

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

317-1938A-02

1 A bill to be entitled
2 An act relating to immunizations; creating s.
3 381.0421, F.S.; requiring that individuals
4 enrolled in a postsecondary educational
5 institution be provided information regarding
6 meningococcal meningitis, diphtheria, tetanus,
7 and hepatitis B vaccines and, if residing in
8 on-campus housing, provide documentation of
9 vaccination against meningococcal meningitis,
10 diphtheria, tetanus, and hepatitis B, or a
11 statement declining such vaccination; providing
12 an effective date.

13
14 WHEREAS, meningococcal meningitis is a serious disease
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

21 WHEREAS, one in seven survivors is left with a severe
22 handicap, such as loss of a limb, mental retardation,
23 paralysis, deafness, or seizures, and

24 WHEREAS, individuals of any age can carry the disease
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 likely than other individuals to contract meningococcal
2 meningitis, and

3 WHEREAS, immunization against meningococcal meningitis
4 will decrease the risk of disease, and

5 WHEREAS, the Legislature urges that college freshmen
6 residing in on-campus housing be vaccinated against
7 meningococcal meningitis, NOW, THEREFORE,

8

9 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

10

11 Section 1. Section 381.0421, Florida Statutes, is
12 created to read:

13 381.0421 Vaccination against meningococcal meningitis,
14 diphtheria, tetanus, and hepatitis B.--

15 (1) A postsecondary educational institution shall
16 provide detailed information concerning the risks associated
17 with meningococcal meningitis, diphtheria, tetanus, and
18 hepatitis B and the availability, effectiveness, and known
19 contraindications of any required or recommended vaccine to
20 every student, or to the student's parent or guardian if the
21 student is a minor, who has been accepted for admission.

22 (2) An individual enrolled in a postsecondary
23 educational institution who will be residing in on-campus
24 housing shall provide documentation of vaccinations against
25 meningococcal meningitis, diphtheria, tetanus, and hepatitis B
26 unless the individual, if the individual is 18 years of age or
27 older, or the individual's parent or guardian, if the
28 individual is a minor, declines the vaccinations and the
29 individual, parent, or guardian signs a waiver, provided by
30 the institution, acknowledging receipt and review of the
31 information provided.

