

By Representative Hogan

1                                   A bill to be entitled  
 2           An act relating to immunizations; creating s.  
 3           381.0421, F.S.; requiring individuals enrolled  
 4           in a postsecondary educational institution who  
 5           reside in on-campus housing to be vaccinated  
 6           against meningococcal meningitis; requiring the  
 7           Department of Health, in consultation with the  
 8           Department of Education, to establish a  
 9           vaccination program and procedures; requiring  
 10          postsecondary educational institutions to  
 11          provide certain information to individuals  
 12          wishing an exemption; providing procedures for  
 13          exemption; requiring the Department of Health,  
 14          in consultation with the Department of  
 15          Education, to adopt rules; providing an  
 16          effective date.

17  
 18           WHEREAS, meningococcal meningitis is a serious disease  
 19          that can lead to death within only a few hours of onset, and

20           WHEREAS, meningococcal meningitis is a highly  
 21          contagious but largely preventable infection of the spinal  
 22          cord fluid and the fluid that surrounds the brain, and

23           WHEREAS, one in 10 cases of meningococcal meningitis is  
 24          fatal, and

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

28           WHEREAS, individuals of any age can carry the disease  
 29          for days, weeks, or months unknowingly or without becoming  
 30          ill, and

31

1 WHEREAS, at any time, from 10 to 25 percent of the  
2 population carries meningococcal meningitis, and

3 WHEREAS, scientific evidence suggests that college  
4 students living in dormitory facilities are six times more  
5 likely than other individuals to contract meningococcal  
6 meningitis, and

7 WHEREAS, immunization against meningococcal meningitis  
8 will decrease the risk of disease, and

9 WHEREAS, the Legislature determines that college  
10 freshmen residing in on-campus housing should be vaccinated  
11 against meningococcal meningitis, NOW, THEREFORE,

12  
13 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

14  
15 Section 1. Section 381.0421, Florida Statutes, is  
16 created to read:

17 381.0421 Vaccination against meningococcal  
18 meningitis.--

19 (1) Individuals who are enrolled in a postsecondary  
20 educational institution in the state and who reside in  
21 on-campus housing shall be required to be vaccinated against  
22 meningococcal meningitis. The Department of Health, in  
23 consultation with the Department of Education, shall establish  
24 a program and procedures for such vaccination.

25 (2) Each postsecondary educational institution shall  
26 provide individuals wishing to be exempted from the  
27 vaccination requirement with detailed information on the risks  
28 associated with meningococcal meningitis and the availability  
29 and effectiveness of vaccination against the disease.

30 (3) An individual shall be exempted from the  
31 meningococcal meningitis vaccination requirement if:

1       (a) For an individual 18 years of age or older, the  
2 individual signs a waiver, in a form adopted by rule of the  
3 Department of Health, stating that the individual has received  
4 and reviewed the information provided pursuant to subsection  
5 (2) and has chosen not to be vaccinated against meningococcal  
6 meningitis; or

7       (b) For an individual under 18 years of age, the  
8 individual's parent or guardian signs a waiver, in a form  
9 adopted by rule of the Department of Health, stating that the  
10 parent or guardian has received and reviewed the information  
11 provided pursuant to subsection (2) and has chosen to not have  
12 the individual vaccinated against meningococcal meningitis.

13       (4) Nothing in this section shall be construed to  
14 require any postsecondary educational institution to provide  
15 or pay for vaccinations against meningococcal meningitis.

16       (5) The Department of Health, in consultation with the  
17 Department of Education, shall adopt rules as necessary to  
18 implement this section.

19       Section 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 2002.

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22                   HOUSE SUMMARY

23       Requires individuals enrolled in a postsecondary  
24 educational institution in the state who reside in  
25 on-campus housing to be vaccinated against meningococcal  
26 meningitis. Requires the Department of Health, in  
27 consultation with the Department of Education, to  
28 establish a vaccination program and procedures and to  
29 adopt rules. Requires postsecondary educational  
30 institutions to provide certain information to  
31 individuals wishing an exemption. Requires a signed  
waiver, on a form adopted by the Department of Health by  
rule, for each individual wishing an exemption.