

By the Committee on Colleges & Universities and  
Representatives Hogan and Waters

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 to  
5           be provided information regarding meningococcal  
6           meningitis vaccine; requiring such individuals,  
7           if they will be residing in on-campus housing,  
8           to provide documentation of vaccination against  
9           meningococcal meningitis or sign a waiver  
10          stating they have received and reviewed  
11          information about the vaccination but have  
12          chosen not to be vaccinated; providing an  
13          effective date.  
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15          WHEREAS, meningococcal meningitis is a serious disease  
16          that can lead to death within only a few hours of onset, and  
17          WHEREAS, meningococcal meningitis is a highly  
18          contagious but largely preventable infection of the spinal  
19          cord fluid and the fluid that surrounds the brain, and  
20          WHEREAS, one in 10 cases of meningococcal meningitis is  
21          fatal, and  
22          WHEREAS, one in seven survivors is left with a severe  
23          handicap, such as loss of a limb, mental retardation,  
24          paralysis, deafness, or seizures, and  
25          WHEREAS, individuals of any age can carry the disease  
26          for days, weeks, or months unknowingly or without becoming  
27          ill, and  
28          WHEREAS, at any time, from 10 to 25 percent of the  
29          population carries meningococcal meningitis, and  
30          WHEREAS, scientific evidence suggests that college  
31          students living in dormitory facilities are six times more

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 recommends that college  
6 freshmen 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  
14 meningitis.--

15 (1) A postsecondary educational institution shall  
16 provide detailed information on the risks associated with  
17 meningococcal meningitis, and the availability, effectiveness,  
18 and known contraindications of any required or recommended  
19 vaccine against meningococcal meningitis, to each student, or  
20 to the student's parent or guardian if the student is a minor,  
21 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 vaccination against  
25 meningococcal meningitis or may, if the individual is 18 years  
26 of age or older, sign a waiver provided by the institution  
27 stating that he or she has received and reviewed the  
28 information provided and has chosen not to be vaccinated  
29 against meningococcal meningitis. If the individual is a  
30 minor, his or her parent or guardian may sign the waiver  
31 provided by the institution.

1           (3) Nothing in this section shall be construed to  
2 require any postsecondary educational institution to provide  
3 or pay for vaccinations against meningococcal meningitis.  
4           Section 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 2002.  
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