

By the Council for Healthy Communities and 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 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.

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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
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1 likely than other individuals to contract meningococcal
2 meningitis, and

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

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

8 WHEREAS, it is recommended that all students be
9 appropriately immunized against diphtheria, tetanus, and
10 hepatitis B, in accordance with the recommendations of the
11 Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Advisory Committee
12 on Immunization Practices, NOW, THEREFORE,

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

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

18 381.0421 Vaccination against meningococcal meningitis,
19 diphtheria, tetanus, and hepatitis B.--

20 (1) A postsecondary educational institution shall
21 provide detailed information concerning the risks associated
22 with meningococcal meningitis, diphtheria, tetanus, and
23 hepatitis B and the availability, effectiveness, and known
24 contraindications of any required or recommended vaccine
25 against those diseases to every student, or to the student's
26 parent or guardian if the student is a minor, who has been
27 accepted for admission.

28 (2) An individual enrolled in a postsecondary
29 educational institution who will be residing in on-campus
30 housing shall provide documentation of vaccinations against
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1 meningococcal meningitis, diphtheria, tetanus, and hepatitis
2 B, unless:
3 (a) The individual is 18 years of age or older and
4 declines the vaccinations, and the individual signs a waiver,
5 provided by the institution, acknowledging receipt and review
6 of the information provided; or
7 (b) The parent or guardian of an individual who is a
8 minor declines the vaccinations, and the parent or guardian
9 signs a waiver, provided by the institution, acknowledging
10 receipt and review of the information provided.
11 (3) This section does not require any postsecondary
12 educational institution to provide or pay for vaccinations
13 against meningococcal meningitis, diphtheria, tetanus, and
14 hepatitis B.

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