

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 and hepatitis B  
7           vaccines and, if residing in on-campus housing,  
8           provide documentation of vaccination against  
9           meningococcal meningitis and hepatitis B, or a  
10          statement declining such vaccination; providing  
11          an effective date.

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13           WHEREAS, meningococcal meningitis is a serious disease  
14          that can lead to death within a few hours of onset, and

15           WHEREAS, meningococcal meningitis is a highly  
16          contagious but largely preventable infection of the  
17          spinal-cord fluid and the fluid that surrounds the brain, and

18           WHEREAS, one in ten cases of meningococcal meningitis  
19          is fatal, and

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

23           WHEREAS, individuals of any age can carry the disease  
24          for days, weeks, or months unknowingly or without becoming  
25          ill, and

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

28           WHEREAS, scientific evidence suggests that college  
29          students living in dormitory facilities are six times more  
30          likely than other individuals to contract meningococcal  
31          meningitis, and

1 WHEREAS, immunization against meningococcal meningitis  
2 will decrease the risk of disease, and

3 WHEREAS, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention  
4 recommends that college students be vaccinated against this  
5 disease, and

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

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

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

14 381.0421 Vaccination against meningococcal meningitis  
15 and hepatitis B.--

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

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

1           (3) This section does not require any postsecondary  
2 educational institution to provide or pay for vaccinations  
3 against meningococcal meningitis or hepatitis B.  
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