

By Senator Haridopolos

26-03376-08

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1 A bill to be entitled

2 An act relating to immunizations; requiring the Department  
3 of Health to adopt an update to specified immunization  
4 requirements before the 2008-2009 school year; providing  
5 an effective date.  
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7 WHEREAS, the State of Florida recognizes the importance of  
8 the tetanus-diphtheria-acellular pertussis (Tdap) vaccine for  
9 children enrolled in public or private school in this state, and

10 WHEREAS, the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices of  
11 the United States Centers for Disease Control and Prevention  
12 recommended in June 2005 that adolescents 11 and 12 years of age  
13 be administered Tdap in place of the tetanus-diphtheria (Td)  
14 booster typically given to adolescents, and

15 WHEREAS, pertussis can be very severe in infants and  
16 children; therefore, it is important that parents timely  
17 vaccinate their children to prevent this serious and life-  
18 threatening disease, and

19 WHEREAS, the number of reported cases of pertussis increased  
20 throughout the 1990s and continue to increase, and

21 WHEREAS, pertussis is the only disease preventable by the  
22 timely administration of a vaccine for which the number of cases  
23 is still rising in the United States, and

24 WHEREAS, cases of pertussis were reduced by more than 90  
25 percent following introduction of the diphtheria-tetanus-  
26 pertussis (DTP) vaccine in the 1940s; however, reported pertussis  
27 cases have increased from a low of 1,024 cases in 1976 to a 40-  
28 year high of 25,827 cases in 2004, NOW, THEREFORE,  
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30 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

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32       Section 1. The Department of Health shall, before the  
33 commencement of the 2008-2009 school year, adopt an update to its  
34 immunization requirements per rule 64D-3.046 to replace the 7th  
35 grade tetanus-diphtheria (Td) booster with the tetanus-  
36 diphtheria-pertussis vaccine (Tdap) in accordance with the  
37 recommendations of the Advisory Committee on Immunization  
38 Practices of the United States Centers for Disease Control and  
39 Prevention.

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      Section 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 2008.