

# VIRGINIA ACTS OF ASSEMBLY -- 2005 SESSION

## CHAPTER 15

*An Act to amend and reenact § 23-7.5 of the Code of Virginia, relating to required health histories for students enrolled in public institutions of higher education.*

[S 712]

Approved March 20, 2005

**Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Virginia:**

**1. That § 23-7.5 of the Code of Virginia is amended and reenacted as follows:**

§ 23-7.5. Health histories required; immunizations.

A. No full-time student shall be enrolled for the first time in any four-year, public institution of higher education in this Commonwealth unless he has furnished, before the beginning of the second semester or quarter of enrollment, a health history consistent with guidelines adopted by each institution's board of visitors, pursuant to the requirements of this section. Any student who fails to furnish the history will not be eligible for registration for the second semester or quarter. Any student who objects on religious grounds shall be exempt from the health history requirement set forth in this section.

B. The health history shall include documented evidence, provided by a licensed health professional or health facility, of the diseases for which the student has been immunized, the numbers of doses given, the dates when administered and any further immunizations indicated. Prior to enrollment, all students shall be immunized by vaccine against diphtheria, tetanus, poliomyelitis, measles (rubeola), German measles (rubella), and mumps according to the guidelines of the American College Health Association.

C. In addition to the immunization requirements set forth in subsection B, all incoming full-time students, prior to enrollment in any public four-year institution of higher education, shall be vaccinated against (i) meningococcal disease and (ii) hepatitis B.

However, if the institution of higher education provides the student or, if the student is a minor, the student's parent or other legal representative, detailed information on the risks associated with meningococcal disease and hepatitis B and on the availability and effectiveness of any vaccine, the student or, if the student is a minor, the student's parent or other legal representative may sign a written waiver stating that he has received and reviewed the information on meningococcal disease and hepatitis B and the availability and effectiveness of any vaccine and has chosen not to be or not to have the student vaccinated.

D. Any student shall be exempt from the immunization requirements set forth in this section who (i) objects on the grounds that administration of immunizing agents conflicts with his religious tenets or practices, unless an emergency or epidemic of disease has been declared by the Board of Health, or (ii) presents a statement from a licensed physician which states that his physical condition is such that administration of one or more of the required immunizing agents would be detrimental to his health.

E. The Board and Commissioner of Health shall cooperate with any board of visitors seeking assistance in the implementation of this section.

F. Further, the State Council of Higher Education shall, in cooperation with the Board and Commissioner of Health, encourage private colleges and universities to develop a procedure for providing information about the risks associated with meningococcal disease and hepatitis B and the availability and effectiveness of any vaccine against meningococcal disease and hepatitis B.