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HOUSE BILL NO. 481

Offered January 10, 2024

Prefiled January 8, 2024

A BILL to amend and reenact § 32.1-46 of the Code of Virginia, relating to first responders; proof of immunization; exemption.

Patron—Garrett

Referred to Committee on Health and Human Services

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Virginia:**1. That § 32.1-46 of the Code of Virginia is amended and reenacted as follows:****§ 32.1-46. Immunization of patients against certain diseases.**

A. The parent, guardian or person standing in loco parentis of each child within this Commonwealth shall cause such child to be immunized in accordance with the Immunization Schedule developed and published by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP), the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP), and the American Academy of Family Physicians (AAFP). The required immunizations for attendance at a public or private elementary, middle or secondary school, child care center, nursery school, family day care home, or developmental center shall be those set forth in the State Board of Health Regulations for the Immunization of School Children. The Board's regulations shall at a minimum require:

1. A minimum of three properly spaced doses of hepatitis B vaccine (HepB).
 2. A minimum of three or more properly spaced doses of diphtheria toxoid. One dose shall be administered on or after the fourth birthday.
 3. A minimum of three or more properly spaced doses of tetanus toxoid. One dose shall be administered on or after the fourth birthday.
 4. A minimum of three or more properly spaced doses of acellular pertussis vaccine. One dose shall be administered on or after the fourth birthday. A booster dose shall be administered prior to entry into the seventh grade.
 5. Two or three primary doses of Haemophilus influenzae type b (Hib) vaccine, depending on the manufacturer, for children up to 60 months of age.
 6. Two properly spaced doses of live attenuated measles (rubeola) vaccine. The first dose shall be administered at age 12 months or older.
 7. One dose of live attenuated rubella vaccine shall be administered at age 12 months or older.
 8. One dose of live attenuated mumps vaccine shall be administered at age 12 months or older.
 9. Two properly spaced doses of varicella vaccine. The first dose shall be administered at age 12 months or older.
 10. Three or more properly spaced doses of oral polio vaccine (OPV) or inactivated polio vaccine (IPV). One dose shall be administered on or after the fourth birthday. A fourth dose shall be required if the three dose primary series consisted of a combination of OPV and IPV.
 11. One to four doses, dependent on age at first dose, of properly spaced pneumococcal conjugate (PCV) vaccine for children up to 60 months of age.
 12. Two doses of properly spaced human papillomavirus (HPV) vaccine. The first dose shall be administered before the child enters the seventh grade.
 13. Two or three properly spaced doses of rotavirus vaccine, depending on the manufacturer, for children up to eight months of age.
 14. Two properly spaced doses of hepatitis A vaccine (HAV). The first dose shall be administered at age 12 months or older.
 15. Two properly spaced doses of meningococcal conjugate vaccine (MenACWY). The first dose shall be administered prior to entry to seventh grade. The second dose shall be administered prior to entry to twelfth grade.
- The parent, guardian or person standing in loco parentis may have such child immunized by a physician, a physician assistant, an advanced practice registered nurse, a registered nurse, or a licensed practical nurse, or a pharmacist who administers pursuant to a valid prescription, or may present the child to the appropriate local health department, which shall administer the vaccines required by the State Board of Health Regulations for the Immunization of School Children without charge to the parent or person standing in loco parentis to the child if (i) the child is eligible for the Vaccines for Children Program or (ii) the child is eligible for coverages issued pursuant to Title XVIII of the Social Security Act, 42 U.S.C. § 1395 et seq. (Medicare), Title XIX of the Social Security Act, 42 U.S.C.

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59 § 1396 et seq. (Medicaid), Title XXI of the Social Security Act, 42 U.S.C. § 1397aa et seq. (CHIP), or
60 10 U.S.C. § 1071 et seq. (CHAMPUS). In all cases in which a child is covered by a health carrier,
61 Medicare, Medicaid, CHIP, or CHAMPUS, the Department shall seek reimbursement from the health
62 carrier, Medicare, Medicaid, CHIP, or CHAMPUS for all allowable costs associated with the provision
63 of the vaccine. For the purposes of this section, the Department shall be deemed a participating provider
64 with a managed care health insurance plan as defined in § 32.1-137.1.

65 B. A physician, a physician assistant, an advanced practice registered nurse, a registered nurse, a
66 licensed practical nurse, a pharmacist, or a local health department administering a vaccine required by
67 this section shall provide to the person who presents the child for immunizations a certificate that shall
68 state the diseases for which the child has been immunized, the numbers of doses given, the dates when
69 administered and any further immunizations indicated.

70 C. The vaccines required by this section shall meet the standards prescribed in, and be administered
71 in accordance with, the State Board of Health Regulations for the Immunization of School Children. The
72 State Board of Health shall amend the State Board of Health Regulations for the Immunization of
73 School Children as necessary from time to time to maintain conformity with evidence-based, routinely
74 recommended vaccinations for children. The adoption of such regulations shall be exempt from the
75 requirements of Article 2 (§ 2.2-4006 et seq.) of the Administrative Process Act (§ 2.2-4000 et seq.).
76 However, the Department shall (i) provide a Notice of Intended Regulatory Action and (ii) provide for a
77 60-day public comment period prior to the Board's adoption of the regulations.

78 D. The provisions of this section shall not apply if:

79 1. The parent or guardian of the child objects thereto on the grounds that the administration of
80 immunizing agents conflicts with his religious tenets or practices, unless an emergency or epidemic of
81 disease has been declared by the Board;

82 2. The parent or guardian presents a statement from a physician licensed to practice medicine in
83 Virginia, a licensed advanced practice registered nurse, or a local health department that states that the
84 physical condition of the child is such that the administration of one or more of the required
85 immunizing agents would be detrimental to the health of the child; or

86 3. Because the human papillomavirus is not communicable in a school setting, a parent or guardian,
87 at the parent's or guardian's sole discretion, may elect for the parent's or guardian's child not to receive
88 the human papillomavirus vaccine, after having reviewed materials describing the link between the
89 human papillomavirus and cervical cancer approved for such use by the Board.

90 E. For the purpose of protecting the public health by ensuring that each child receives
91 age-appropriate immunizations, any physician, physician assistant, advanced practice registered nurse,
92 licensed institutional health care provider, or local or district health department, the Virginia
93 Immunization Information System, and the Department of Health may share immunization and patient
94 locator information without parental authorization, including, but not limited to, the month, day, and
95 year of each administered immunization; the patient's name, address, telephone number, birth date, and
96 social security number; and the parents' names. The immunization information; the patient's name,
97 address, telephone number, birth date, and social security number; and the parents' names shall be
98 confidential and shall only be shared for the purposes set out in this subsection.

99 F. *First responders, as defined by § 65.2-104, shall not be required to show proof of immunization to*
100 *attend trainings at medical care facilities, regardless of whether the administration of immunizing agents*
101 *conflicts with their religious tenets or practices.*

102 G. The State Board of Health shall review this section annually and make recommendations for
103 revision by September 1 to the Governor, the General Assembly, and the Joint Commission on Health
104 Care.