

2024 SESSION

INTRODUCED

24100651D

HOUSE BILL NO. 665

Offered January 10, 2024

Prefiled January 9, 2024

A BILL to amend and reenact § 32.1-48 of the Code of Virginia, relating to immunizations; authority of the Commissioner of Health; religious exception.

Patron—Freitas

Referred to Committee on Health and Human Services

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Virginia:

1. That § 32.1-48 of the Code of Virginia is amended and reenacted as follows:

§ 32.1-48. Powers of Commissioner in epidemic.

A. Nothing in this article shall preclude the Commissioner from requiring immediate immunization of all persons in case of an epidemic of any disease of public health importance for which a vaccine exists other than (i) a person to whose health the administration of a vaccine would be detrimental as certified in writing by a physician licensed to practice medicine in ~~this~~ the Commonwealth or (ii) a person, including a parent or guardian on behalf of a child, who objects on the grounds that the administration of a vaccine conflicts with his religious tenets or practices.

B. In addition, the ~~State Health~~ Commissioner shall hold the powers conferred pursuant to Article 3.02 (§ 32.1-48.05 et seq.) ~~of this chapter~~ to issue orders of quarantine or prepare orders of isolation for a communicable disease of public health threat.

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