

1 SJR11
2 135832-2
3 By Senator Dial
4 RFD: Rules
5 First Read: 07-FEB-12

1 SJR11

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4 ENROLLED, SJR11,

5 URGING THE STATE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION AND THE
6 ALABAMA DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH TO ENCOURAGE ALL SCHOOLS
7 TO PARTICIPATE IN A SCHOOL-BASED INFLUENZA VACCINATION
8 PROGRAM.

9
10 WHEREAS, the Alabama Legislature finds as follows:

11 (1) Influenza is a contagious respiratory illness
12 caused by influenza viruses, and the best way to help prevent
13 seasonal influenza is by being vaccinated each year.

14 (2) Every year in the United States, on average,
15 more than 200,000 people are hospitalized from
16 influenza-related complications and about 36,000 people,
17 mostly elderly, die from influenza-related causes.

18 (3) The Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices
19 of the United States Centers for Disease Control and
20 Prevention (ACIP) recommended, effective July 1, 2008, routine
21 seasonal influenza vaccination for all children ages six
22 months to 18 years, inclusive.

23 (4) Children and young adults ages five years to 19
24 years, inclusive, are three to four times more likely to be
25 infected with influenza than adults.

1 (5) School-aged children are the population group
2 most responsible for the transmission of contagious
3 respiratory viruses, including influenza.

4 (6) The elderly are the most vulnerable population
5 to suffer severe illness from influenza due to weaker immune
6 response to vaccination.

7 (7) School-based vaccination programs may be an
8 effective way to vaccinate children while reducing
9 transmission and infection rates to the larger community and
10 reducing rates of school absenteeism due to children being
11 infected with influenza.

12 (8) Increased focus on providing influenza vaccine
13 to children targeted for immunization may assist efforts to
14 build a sound foundation for future vaccination efforts.

15 (9) Schools may be an effective infrastructure tool
16 to improve pandemic planning by identifying known and
17 effective pandemic vaccination centers.

18 (10) School-based programs may help facilitate mass
19 immunization clinics and build partnerships with local public
20 health teams in the event of a public health emergency, such
21 as a pandemic.

22 (11) Although experience has demonstrated the
23 feasibility and success of school-based influenza vaccination
24 programs in vaccinating children, funding and logistical
25 issues, particularly involving the delivery of vaccine to

1 children with private insurance coverage, are issues with
2 program sustainability; now therefore,

3 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA, BOTH
4 HOUSES THEREOF CONCURRING, That the State Department of
5 Education, in consultation with the Alabama Department of
6 Public Health, strongly encourage all public K-12 schools to
7 participate in a school-based influenza vaccination program
8 with all of the following attributes:

9 (1) The program shall be run entirely by health care
10 providers or community immunizers, or both.

11 a. Health care providers and community immunizers
12 shall be responsible for ordering vaccine for children (VFC)
13 influenza vaccine through the Alabama Department of Public
14 Health and for purchasing non-VFC influenza vaccine from
15 manufacturers.

16 b. Health care providers and community immunizers
17 shall be responsible for acquiring insurance information and
18 making application for the administration of the vaccine to
19 the appropriate public or private insurer. Reimbursement to
20 providers shall be determined under the terms and conditions
21 of each individual's insurance benefit plan.

22 c. No child, regardless of insurance, shall be
23 refused a vaccine.

24 (2) The program shall be designed to administer
25 influenza vaccine consistent with the recommendations of the

1 ACIP for the annual vaccination of school-aged children ages
2 five years to 19 years, inclusive.

3 (3) The program may be implemented by any willing
4 provider with the ability to order and administer both VFC and
5 non-VFC influenza vaccines in accordance with Alabama law.

6 (4) Only federal Food and Drug Administration
7 approved influenza vaccines may be used in the program.

8 (5) Individual student participation shall be
9 voluntary and the vaccine shall only be administered to a
10 student with the written consent of the parent or legal
11 guardian of the student.

12 (6) Information on the school-based influenza
13 program and a consent for vaccination form shall be included
14 by each participating local board of education in the
15 applicable Student/Parent Information Guide provided to each
16 student at the beginning of each school year.

17 (7) The program may not restrict the discretion of a
18 health care provider or community immunizer, or both, to
19 administer seasonal influenza vaccine approved by the federal
20 Food and Drug Administration for use in pediatric populations.

21 (8) Influenza vaccination shall be offered to all
22 children as soon as the vaccine becomes available, before the
23 start of the influenza season, and shall continue to be
24 offered throughout the entire influenza season.

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President and Presiding Officer of the Senate

Speaker of the House of Representatives

SJR11

Senate 14-FEB-12

I hereby certify that the within Act originated in and adopted the Senate.

Patrick Harris
Secretary

House of Representatives
Amended and adopted 22-MAR-12

Senate concurred in House amendment 03-APR-12

By: Senator Dial