

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

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

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13           WHEREAS, the Alabama Legislature finds as follows:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

18 (9) Schools may be an effective infrastructure tool  
19 to improve pandemic planning by identifying known and  
20 effective pandemic vaccination centers.

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

25 (11) Although experience has demonstrated the  
26 feasibility and success of school-based influenza vaccination  
27 programs in vaccinating children, funding and logistical

1 issues, particularly involving the delivery of vaccine to  
2 children with private insurance coverage, are issues with  
3 program sustainability; now therefore,

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

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

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

17 b. Health care providers and community immunizers  
18 shall be responsible for acquiring insurance information and  
19 billing for the administration of the vaccine to the  
20 appropriate insurer.

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

23 (2) The program shall be designed to administer  
24 influenza vaccine consistent with the recommendations of the  
25 ACIP for the annual vaccination of school-aged children ages  
26 five years to 19 years, inclusive.

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

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

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

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

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

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