

1 SJR78  
2 191944-1  
3 By Senator Brewbaker  
4 RFD:  
5 First Read: 22-FEB-18

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8 RECOGNIZING THE IMPORTANCE OF MENINGOCOCCAL DISEASE  
9 AWARENESS AND PREVENTION.

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11 WHEREAS, meningococcal disease is any infection  
12 caused by the bacterium Neisseria meningitides, or  
13 meningococcus; one in 10 people are carriers of this bacteria  
14 with no signs or symptoms of disease; and

15 WHEREAS, meningococcal disease is spread from person  
16 to person via the exchange of the bacteria through respiratory  
17 and throat secretion during close or lengthy contact; and

18 WHEREAS, in the United States, there are  
19 approximately 1,000 to 1,200 cases of meningococcal disease  
20 each year; and

21 WHEREAS, ten to 15 percent of infected individuals  
22 will die, while 11 to 19 percent of those who live will suffer  
23 from serious morbidity, including loss of limbs and impacts to  
24 the nervous system; and

25 WHEREAS, infants under one year of age, as well as  
26 young adults between the ages of 16 and 21, are most commonly  
27 impacted by this disease; and

1           WHEREAS, there are different strains or serogroups  
2 of Neisseria meningitides, with serogroups B, C, and Y  
3 accounting for most meningococcal diseases in the United  
4 States; and

5           WHEREAS, vaccines are available to prevent  
6 meningococcal disease, and there are different vaccines that  
7 provide coverage against certain specific serogroups of the  
8 disease; and

9           WHEREAS, while there are vaccines that help provide  
10 protection against all three serogroups commonly seen in the  
11 United States, only the vaccination for serogroups A, C, W,  
12 and Y is routinely recommended by the Centers for Disease  
13 Control and Prevention; and

14           WHEREAS, the Centers for Disease Control and  
15 Prevention's Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices  
16 recommends that decisions to vaccinate adolescents and young  
17 adults 16 through 23 years of age against serogroup B  
18 meningococcal disease should be made at the individual level  
19 with health care providers; and

20           WHEREAS, it is critical that students, parents,  
21 educators, and health care providers understand the dangers of  
22 meningitides B and are aware that a vaccine is available to  
23 prevent disease resulting from this serogroup; now therefore,

24           BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA, BOTH  
25 HOUSES THEREOF CONCURRING, That we recognize the importance of  
26 meningococcal disease awareness and prevention.

1                   BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That we take all reasonable  
2 steps to urge all colleges and universities in Alabama to  
3 educate students on the benefits and risks of meningococcal  
4 immunization in accordance with the latest recommendations of  
5 the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices of the  
6 Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.