

## HB444 INTRODUCED



1 HB444  
2 JPIV4FF-1  
3 By Representatives Butler, Harrison, DuBose, Whorton  
4 RFD: Health  
5 First Read: 18-Mar-25



## SYNOPSIS:

This bill would provide that if a religiously-affiliated private school or church school requires students to be vaccinated or tested for a disease, the school must accept religious exemptions to the requirement.

This bill would specify that a parent or guardian's written declaration is sufficient documentation to exempt his or her child from a vaccine or testing requirement for religious reasons.

This bill would provide that any private school or church school that fails to accept religious exemptions to vaccine or testing requirements shall be subject to corporate income tax and ad valorem tax, may not claim certain tax exemptions, and is ineligible to receive CHOOSE Act funding.

A BILL  
TO BE ENTITLED  
AN ACT

Relating to vaccines; to require private schools and church schools to accept religious exemptions to vaccine or testing requirements; and to provide penalties for a private



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school or church school that fails to comply.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA:

Section 1. (a) (1) No private school or church school, as defined in Section 16-28-2, Code of Alabama 1975, which is affiliated with a religious institution may require a student to receive any vaccine or to be tested for any disease as a condition of enrollment or attendance unless the private school or church school offers a religious exemption to the vaccine or testing requirement.

(2) To be granted a religious exemption, a parent or guardian of the student may submit a written statement to the school declaring that he or she wishes to be exempt because the vaccination or testing conflicts with his or her religious tenets and practices. The parent or guardian shall not be required to explain the reason for the exemption, certify the exemption with any third party, or otherwise receive approval from the school, a religious institution, or any other entity.

(b) Notwithstanding any law to the contrary, any private school or church school that violates subsection (a):

(1) Shall be subject to corporate income tax and ad valorem tax and may not claim exemption from taxation under Sections 40-18-32 or 40-9-1, Code of Alabama 1975, nor any other provisions of law; and

(2) Shall not be classified as a participating school or approved as an education service provider for purposes of the CHOOSE Act, Act 2024-21, 2024 Regular Session, now appearing as Chapter 6J of Title 16, Code of Alabama 1975, or otherwise receive any program funds from the CHOOSE Act Fund.



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57                   Section 2. This act shall become effective on October  
58    1, 2025.