SB85 ENGROSSED



- 1 SB85
- 2 WTVJE99-2
- 3 By Senators Orr, Chesteen
- 4 RFD: Education Policy
- 5 First Read: 04-Feb-25

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5	A BILL
6	TO BE ENTITLED
7	AN ACT
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9	Relating to vaccines; to amend Section 16-30-3, Code of
10	Alabama 1975; to further provide for the process to exempt a
11	student at a public K-12 school from vaccine requirements for
12	religious reasons; and to require public institutions of
13	higher education to provide medical and religious exemptions
14	to vaccine or testing requirements.
15	BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA:
16	Section 1. This act shall be known and may be cited as
17	the Alabama Vaccination Exemption Bill.
18	Section 2. Section 16-30-3, Code of Alabama 1975, is
19	amended to read as follows:
20	" §16-30-3
21	The provisions of this chapter shall not apply if:
22	(1) a. In the absence of an epidemic or immediate threat
23	thereof, the The parent or guardian of the child shall object
24	thereto objects in writing on grounds that such the
25	vaccination immunization or testing conflicts with his or her
26	religious tenets and practices; or.
27	b. A written statement provided by a child's parent or
28	guardian to the local board of education declaring that he or

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29	she wishes to exempt his or her child from any vaccination or
30	testing requirement pursuant to this subdivision, and
31	accompanied by a board-approved physical evaluation form or
32	the Alabama High School Athletic Association's
33	Preparticipation Physical Education form completed for the
34	child within the previous 12 months, shall constitute an
35	exemption. The parent or guardian shall not be required to
36	explain the reason for the exemption, certify the exemption
37	with any third party, or otherwise receive approval from the
38	local board of education or any other entity.
39	c. A written statement pursuant to this subdivision
40	from a parent or guardian attesting to a sincerely held
41	religious belief shall be recognized as valid grounds for
42	exemption from any school enrollment vaccine or testing
43	requirement. No additional forms, fees, or documentation may
44	be required of the parent, guardian, or child to secure
45	enrollment in any public K-12 school.
46	(2) Certification by a competent medical authority
47	providing individual exemption from the required immunization
48	<pre>vaccination or testing is presented to the admissions officer</pre>
49	of the school."
50	Section 3. A public institution of higher education,
51	as defined in Section 16-5-1, Code of Alabama 1975, shall not
52	require a student to receive any vaccine or be tested for any
53	disease as a condition for enrollment or attendance unless the
54	public institution of higher education offers both of the
55	following exemptions to the vaccine and testing requirements:
56	(1) A religious exemption. A student wishing to be





57 exempt pursuant to this subdivision may submit a written 58 statement, accompanied by a physical evaluation form approved 59 by the Alabama Commission on Higher Education for the student 60 which was completed within the previous 12 months, to the public institution of higher education declaring that he or 61 62 she wishes to be exempt because the vaccination or testing 63 conflicts with his or her religious tenets and practices. The 64 student shall not be required to explain the reason for the 65 exemption, certify the exemption with any third party, or 66 otherwise receive approval from the public institution of 67 higher education or any other entity. A written statement pursuant to this subdivision shall be recognized as valid 68 69 grounds for exemption from any institutional vaccine or 70 testing requirement. No additional forms, fees, or 71 documentation may be required of the student to secure enrollment in any public institution of higher education. 72

(2) A medical exemption. A student wishing to be exempt pursuant to this subdivision may submit to the public institution of higher education a written statement from a competent medical authority certifying that the student is exempt from the required vaccination or testing.

78 Section 4. This act shall become effective on October 79 1, 2025.

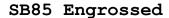
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80 81 82 Senate Read for the first time and referred04-Feb-25 83 to the Senate committee on Education 84 Policy 85 86 87 Read for the second time and placed05-Mar-25 on the calendar: 88 89 0 amendments 90 91 92 as amended Yeas 26 93 Nays 5 94 Abstains 0 95 96 97 Patrick Harris, 98 99 Secretary.

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