

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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A BILL
TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT

Relating to vaccines; to amend Section 16-30-3, Code of Alabama 1975; to further provide for the process to exempt a student at a public K-12 school from vaccine requirements for religious reasons; and to require public institutions of higher education to provide medical and religious exemptions to vaccine or testing requirements.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA:

Section 1. This act shall be known and may be cited as the Alabama Vaccination Exemption Bill.

Section 2. Section 16-30-3, Code of Alabama 1975, is amended to read as follows:

"§16-30-3

The provisions of this chapter shall not apply if:

(1) a. ~~In the absence of an epidemic or immediate threat thereof, the~~The parent or guardian of the child ~~shall object thereto~~ objects in writing on grounds that ~~such~~ the vaccination/immunization or testing conflicts with his or her religious tenets and practices; ~~or.~~

b. A written statement provided by a child's parent or 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 vaccination or testing is presented to the admissions officer
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



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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
61 public institution of higher education declaring that he or
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
68 pursuant to this subdivision shall be recognized as valid
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
72 enrollment in any public institution of higher education.

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

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



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82 Senate

83 Read for the first time and referred04-Feb-25
84 to the Senate committee on Education
85 Policy
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87 Read for the second time and placed05-Mar-25
88 on the calendar:
89 0 amendments
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91 Read for the third time and passed03-Apr-25
92 as amended
93 Yeas 26
94 Nays 5
95 Abstains 0
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Patrick Harris,
Secretary.

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