

**SB85 INTRODUCED**



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



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SYNOPSIS:

Under existing law, a student at a public K-12 school may be exempt from vaccination or testing requirements for religious or medical reasons.

Existing law does not provide for vaccination or testing requirements for students at a public institution of higher education.

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

This bill would also provide that if a public institution of higher education requires students to be vaccinated or tested for a disease, a student may be exempt for medical reasons or because he or she objects for religious reasons.

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



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29 religious reasons; and to require public institutions of  
30 higher education to provide medical and religious exemptions  
31 to vaccine or testing requirements.

32 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA:

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

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

37 "§16-30-3

38 The provisions of this chapter shall not apply if:

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

44 b. A written statement provided by a child's parent or  
45 guardian to the local board of education declaring that he or  
46 she wishes to exempt his or her child from any vaccination or  
47 testing requirement pursuant to this subdivision shall  
48 constitute an exemption. The parent or guardian shall not be  
49 required to explain the reason for the exemption, certify the  
50 exemption with any third party, or otherwise receive approval  
51 from the local board of education or any other entity.

52 (2) Certification by a competent medical authority  
53 providing individual exemption from the required ~~immunization~~  
54 vaccination or testing is presented to the admissions officer  
55 of the school."

56 Section 3. A public institution of higher education,



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57 as defined in Section 16-5-1, Code of Alabama 1975, shall not  
58 require a student to receive any vaccine or be tested for any  
59 disease as a condition for enrollment or attendance unless the  
60 public institution of higher education offers both of the  
61 following exemptions to the vaccine and testing requirements:

62 (1) A religious exemption. A student wishing to be  
63 exempt pursuant to this subdivision may submit a written  
64 statement to the public institution of higher education  
65 declaring that he or she wishes to be exempt because the  
66 vaccination or testing conflicts with his or her religious  
67 tenets and practices. The student shall not be required to  
68 explain the reason for the exemption, certify the exemption  
69 with any third party, or otherwise receive approval from the  
70 public institution of higher education or any other entity.

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

76 Section 4. This act shall become effective on October  
77 1, 2025.