

1 HB437
2 157867-1
3 By Representative Weaver
4 RFD: Health
5 First Read: 11-FEB-14

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8 SYNOPSIS: This bill would require hospitals to provide
9 educational information on pertussis to a parent of
10 a newborn infant.

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12 A BILL
13 TO BE ENTITLED
14 AN ACT

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16 To require hospitals to provide educational
17 information developed and made available by the Department of
18 Public Health on pertussis to a parent prior to discharge of a
19 newborn infant.

20 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA:

21 Section 1. (a) The Department of Public Health shall
22 develop educational information on pertussis disease and the
23 availability of a vaccine to protect against pertussis. This
24 educational material shall include, at a minimum, the most
25 current vaccine recommendations of the Centers for Disease
26 Control and Prevention for parents of newborn infants. The
27 educational information shall be regularly updated and made

1 available on the department's website in a form that can be
2 printed and provided to a parent of a newborn infant. During
3 the postpartum period, before discharging a newborn child, a
4 hospital shall provide the infant's parent with educational
5 information developed by the department and made available on
6 its website.

7 (b) Nothing in this section shall be construed to
8 require any hospital to provide or pay for any vaccination
9 against pertussis.

10 (c) Nothing in this section shall be construed to
11 establish a standard of care for hospitals or physicians or
12 otherwise modify, amend, or supersede any provision of the
13 Alabama Medical Liability Act of 1987 or the Alabama Medical
14 Liability Act of 1996, or any amendment thereto, or any
15 judicial interpretation thereof.

16 (d) Physicians and hospitals, as hospitals are
17 defined in Section 22-21-20, Code of Alabama 1975, shall be
18 immune from all civil and criminal liability for any claims
19 directly associated with information produced by the
20 Department of Public Health and disseminated pursuant to this
21 act.

22 Section 2. This act shall become effective on the
23 first day of the sixth month following its passage and
24 approval by the Governor, or its otherwise becoming law.