

Second Regular Session
Sixty-ninth General Assembly
STATE OF COLORADO

PREAMENDED

*This Unofficial Version Includes Committee
Amendments Not Yet Adopted on Second Reading*

LLS NO. 14-0574.01 Kristen Forrestal x4217

HOUSE BILL 14-1288

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A BILL FOR AN ACT

101 **CONCERNING INFORMATION AVAILABLE REGARDING PERSONAL BELIEF**
102 **EXEMPTIONS TO IMMUNIZATION REQUIREMENTS FOR CHILDREN**
103 **PRIOR TO ATTENDING SCHOOL.**

Bill Summary

(Note: This summary applies to this bill as introduced and does not reflect any amendments that may be subsequently adopted. If this bill passes third reading in the house of introduction, a bill summary that applies to the reengrossed version of this bill will be available at <http://www.leg.state.co.us/billsummaries>.)

When a parent, guardian, emancipated student, or student 18 years of age or older has a personal belief that is opposed to immunizations, the bill requires the person to submit to the student's school a statement of exemption that includes:

Shading denotes HOUSE amendment. Double underlining denotes SENATE amendment.
Capital letters indicate new material to be added to existing statute.
Dashes through the words indicate deletions from existing statute.

HOUSE
3rd Reading Unamended
March 24, 2014

HOUSE
Amended 2nd Reading
March 21, 2014

! The signature of a health care provider or an authorized representative of the department of public health and environment (department) or of a county, district, or municipal public health agency who is permitted and qualified to administer vaccines stating that the parent, guardian, or student received information disclosing the benefits and risks of immunizations to the student and the community; or

! A certificate of completion of an on-line education module developed by the infant immunization program at the department that discloses the benefits and risks of immunization to the student and the community.

The bill also requires the department to promulgate rules concerning student immunizations.

1 *Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Colorado:*

2 **SECTION 1. Legislative declaration.** (1) The general assembly
3 hereby finds and declares:

4 (a) Vaccines are considered one of the greatest public health
5 achievements of the twentieth century, and save an estimated three
6 million children's lives every year;

7 (b) Vaccines are cost-effective, and for every dollar we spend
8 immunizing a child up to six years of age, more than \$10 is saved in
9 direct and indirect costs;

10 (c) High rates of immunization coverage are necessary to prevent
11 the spread of vaccine-preventable diseases;

12 (d) Children who are not vaccinated are twenty-two to
13 twenty-eight times more likely to get pertussis (whooping cough) than
14 their immunized peers, and with Colorado pertussis cases at epidemic
15 levels, high exemption rates can increase the risk of pertussis and other
16 vaccine-preventable diseases within Colorado schools and communities;

17 (e) Personal belief exemptions are the primary reason for

1 exemption from recommended vaccines and account for over ninety
2 percent of all exemptions for Colorado kindergartners from 2003-2012;

3 (f) Colorado has one of the highest rates of personal belief
4 exemption for immunizations in the United States, which translates to
5 nearly three thousand kindergartners entering school unvaccinated against
6 one or more vaccine-preventable diseases each year;

7 (g) States with permissive or easy procedures for claiming
8 personal belief exemptions have higher rates of vaccine-preventable
9 diseases; states with policies that make it easy to exempt children from
10 immunization were associated with a ninety percent higher incidence of
11 whooping cough in 2011; and

12 (h) A parent's decision to refuse vaccination for their child carries
13 risk for their child and the community at large and, therefore, it is critical
14 that Colorado develop a policy that ensures careful consideration of the
15 research about vaccine benefits and risks.

16
17 SECTION 2. In Colorado Revised Statutes, 25-4-903, add (2.5)
18 and (5) as follows:

19 25-4-903. Exemptions from immunization - rules. (2.5) THE
20 STATE BOARD OF HEALTH SHALL PROMULGATE RULES REGARDING:

21 (a) IMMUNIZATION INFORMATION, INCLUDING EXEMPTION RATES,
22 THAT IS AVAILABLE TO THE PUBLIC THROUGH THE DEPARTMENT,
23 INCLUDING EVIDENCE-BASED RESEARCH, RESOURCES AND INFORMATION
24 FROM CREDIBLE SCIENTIFIC AND PUBLIC HEALTH ORGANIZATIONS, _____
25 PEER-REVIEWED STUDIES, AND AN ONLINE LEARNING MODULE; AND

26 (b) THE FREQUENCY OF _____ SUBMISSION OF EXEMPTION FORMS.

27 (5) EACH SCHOOL SHALL MAKE THE IMMUNIZATION AND

1 EXEMPTION RATES OF THEIR ENROLLED STUDENT POPULATION PUBLICLY
2 AVAILABLE UPON REQUEST.

3 **SECTION 3.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, **add** 25-4-910 as
4 follows:

5 **25-4-910. Immunization data collection.** (1) THE DEPARTMENT
6 OF PUBLIC HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENT, IN CONSULTATION WITH OTHER
7 STATE DEPARTMENTS, SHALL ESTABLISH A JOINT POLICY ON
8 IMMUNIZATION DATA COLLECTION AND SHARING.

9 (2) THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENT
10 SHALL PROVIDE ASSISTANCE TO SCHOOLS WITH THE ANALYSIS AND
11 INTERPRETATION OF THE IMMUNIZATION DATA.

12 **SECTION 4. Effective date.** This act takes effect July 1, 2014.

13 **SECTION 5. Safety clause.** The general assembly hereby finds,
14 determines, and declares that this act is necessary for the immediate
15 preservation of the public peace, health, and safety.