

## House Resolution 1375

By: Representatives Dempsey of the 13<sup>th</sup>, Cooper of the 43<sup>rd</sup>, Newton of the 123<sup>rd</sup>, Tankersley of the 160<sup>th</sup>, Prince of the 127<sup>th</sup>, and others

## A RESOLUTION

1 Encouraging the State of Georgia to advise all public and private schools to educate students  
2 and parents about the dangers of meningococcal disease; and for other purposes.

3 WHEREAS, meningococcal disease is an infection caused by the bacterium *Neisseria*  
4 *meningitidis*; and

5 WHEREAS, although 1 in 10 people are carriers for this bacteria with no signs or symptoms  
6 of disease, sometimes *Neisseria meningitidis* bacteria can cause illness; and

7 WHEREAS, approximately 350-550 cases of meningococcal disease occur each year in the  
8 United States; and

9 WHEREAS, 10 to 15 out of 100 individuals infected by the disease will die, even when  
10 treated, while approximately 11 to 19 out of every 100 survivors suffer from serious  
11 morbidity, including loss of limbs and impacts to the nervous system; and

12 WHEREAS, infants, preteens, teens, and young adults have the highest rates of  
13 meningococcal disease in the United States; and

14 WHEREAS, meningococcal disease is spread from person to person via the exchange of the  
15 bacteria through respiratory and throat secretion during close or lengthy contact; and

16 WHEREAS, community settings in which large groups of people gather, such as college  
17 campuses, can increase the risk of the spread of meningococcal disease; and

18 WHEREAS, there are different serogroups of *Neisseria meningitidis*, with serogroups B, C,  
19 and Y accounting for most meningococcal diseases in the United States; and

20 WHEREAS, there have been several recent outbreaks of serogroup B meningococcal disease  
21 on college campuses, with some cases resulting in death; and

22 WHEREAS, there are vaccines that protect against all three common serogroups, B, C, and  
23 Y, seen in the United States; and

24 WHEREAS, vaccination for serogroups A, C, W, and Y is routinely recommended by the  
25 Centers for Disease Control and Prevention; and

26 WHEREAS, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's Advisory Committee on  
27 Immunization Practices (ACIP) recommends that decisions to vaccinate adolescents and  
28 young adults 16 through 23 years of age against serogroup B meningococcal disease should  
29 be made at the individual level with health care providers; and

30 WHEREAS, it is critical that students, parents, educators, and health care providers  
31 understand the dangers of meningitis B and are aware that a vaccine is available to prevent  
32 disease resulting from this serogroup; and

33 WHEREAS, the recent incidence of meningococcal disease has served as a reminder of the  
34 critical role vaccinations play in helping to prevent this devastating illness.

35 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES that  
36 the members of this body encourage the State of Georgia to take all reasonable steps to  
37 advise all private and public high schools, colleges, and universities in Georgia to provide  
38 information to all students and parents about meningococcal disease by explaining the  
39 different disease serogroups, symptoms, risks, and treatment options; that such information  
40 also include a notice of availability, benefits, risks, and limitations of all meningococcal  
41 vaccines receiving a recommendation from the Advisory Committee on Immunization  
42 Practices, including Category A and Category B recommendations, with specific information  
43 as to those persons at higher risk for the disease; and that each private and public high school,  
44 college, and university shall recommend that current and entering students receive  
45 meningococcal vaccines in accordance with current ACIP guidelines.

46 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of the House of Representatives is authorized  
47 and directed to make appropriate copies of this resolution available for distribution to the  
48 public and the press.