

2022 Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 47

BY REPRESENTATIVE EDMONSTON

VACCINES/VACCINATION: Requires that any communication issued to students or their parents or guardians relative to immunization requirements include exemption information

1 AN ACT

2 To amend and reenact R.S. 17:170(E), relative to student immunization requirements; to  
3 require that any communication issued to students or their parents or guardians  
4 relative to immunization requirements include information relative to exemption  
5 from such requirements; to require schools to accept each written statement or  
6 dissent provided pursuant to such exemption; to provide that exemptions apply to  
7 those attending schools in addition to those seeking to enter schools; and to provide  
8 for related matters.

9 Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

10 Section 1. R.S. 17:170(E) is hereby amended and reenacted to read as follows:

11 §170. Immunization of persons entering schools, kindergartens, colleges,  
12 proprietary or vocational schools, and day care centers for the first time;  
13 immunization of persons entering sixth grade; electronic transmission of  
14 immunization compliance reports; exemption

15 \* \* \*

16 E.(1) No person seeking to enter or attending any school or facility  
17 enumerated in Subsection A of this Section shall be required to comply with the  
18 provisions of this Section, including any additional immunization or proof of  
19 immunity requirement adopted pursuant to the provisions of this Section, if the

1 student or his parent or guardian submits either a written statement from a physician  
 2 stating that the procedure is contraindicated for medical reasons; or a written dissent  
 3 from the student or his parent or guardian ~~is presented~~. Each public or nonpublic  
 4 school or facility enumerated in Subsection A of this Section shall accept such  
 5 written statement or written dissent.

6 (2) Any communication issued to students or their parents or guardians  
 7 relative to the requirements of this Section shall include the text and legal citation  
 8 of Paragraph (1) of this Subsection.

9 \* \* \*

DIGEST

The digest printed below was prepared by House Legislative Services. It constitutes no part of the legislative instrument. The keyword, one-liner, abstract, and digest do not constitute part of the law or proof or indicia of legislative intent. [R.S. 1:13(B) and 24:177(E)]

HB 47 Reengrossed

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Edmonston

**Abstract:** Requires all public and nonpublic schools to accept a student's documentation relative to exemption from immunization requirements and requires any communication issued to students or their parents or guardians about such requirements to include exemption information.

Present law requires each person entering any school (licensed day care centers and elementary, secondary, and postsecondary schools) for the first time to present satisfactory evidence of immunity to or immunization against vaccine-preventable diseases according to a schedule approved by the office of public health or to present evidence of an immunization program in progress. Exempts a student seeking to enter any such school or facility from this requirement if he submits a written statement from a doctor relative to medical contraindication or a written dissent.

Proposed law:

- (1) Requires each such school and facility, both public and nonpublic, to accept such written statements or dissents.
- (2) Applies the exemption not only to students seeking to enter school but also to students attending school.
- (3) Requires that any communication issued to students or their parents or guardians relative to immunization requirements include the text and legal citation of the present law exemption provision.

(Amends R.S. 17:170(E))

Summary of Amendments Adopted by House

The Committee Amendments Proposed by House Committee on Education to the original bill:

1. Require each public and nonpublic school and facility to accept exemption documentation.
2. Remove requirement that schools provide an exemption form.
3. Specify that exemption applies not only to those seeking to enter school but those attending school.

The House Floor Amendments to the engrossed bill:

1. Regarding communications issued by schools, includes those sent to students' guardians in addition to their parents.