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THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

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SENATE BILL

No. 251 Session of  
2013

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INTRODUCED BY TOMLINSON, MENSCH, ERICKSON, GREENLEAF, COSTA,  
HUGHES, TARTAGLIONE, FERLO, FARNESE, WASHINGTON, BREWSTER,  
WARD, ALLOWAY AND RAFFERTY, JANUARY 18, 2013

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REFERRED TO PUBLIC HEALTH AND WELFARE, JANUARY 18, 2013

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AN ACT

1 Providing for Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices  
2 recommendations for influenza vaccination in children.

3 The General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania  
4 hereby enacts as follows:

5 Section 1. Short title.

6 This act shall be known and may be cited as the Immunization  
7 Practices Act.

8 Section 2. Recommendations for influenza vaccination in  
9 children.

10 (a) Duties.--In order to improve this Commonwealth's  
11 childhood immunization rates for influenza and comply with the  
12 recommendations of the Advisory Committee on Immunization  
13 Practices of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention for  
14 influenza vaccination, the Department of Health shall do all of  
15 the following:

16 (1) Review and enhance current immunization activities  
17 to focus on vaccination of all children ages six months to 18

1 years of age who are recommended for an influenza vaccination  
2 by the Advisory Committee for Immunization Practices.

3 (2) Increase immunization awareness about injectable and  
4 needle-free delivery methods by publishing on the  
5 department's Internet website information about the benefits  
6 of annual immunization against influenza for all children  
7 recommended by the Advisory Committee for Immunization  
8 Practices.

9 (3) Work with appropriate State agencies and licensed  
10 child-care facilities to ensure that the information on the  
11 benefits of annual immunization against influenza for  
12 children ages six months to 18 years of age is annually  
13 distributed to parents in August before influenza season  
14 begins.

15 (4) Work with health care professionals and public  
16 health organizations to develop plans for expanding outreach  
17 and opportunities to achieve the Advisory Committee for  
18 Immunization Practices recommended target vaccination of all  
19 children aged six months to 18 years of age.

20 (5) Examine the use of schools and alternative venues to  
21 administer influenza vaccine to children in a timely manner.

22 (b) Programs.--The department may offer school-based  
23 influenza vaccine programs. To the extent that influenza  
24 vaccinations are available, the department must offer both  
25 injectable and needle-free delivery methods.

26 (c) Report.--The department shall annually, on or before May  
27 1, submit a written report on all school-based vaccination  
28 programs administered or funded by the department. Its findings  
29 and recommendations shall be submitted to the chairman and  
30 minority chairman of the Public Health and Welfare Committee of

1 the Senate and the chairman and minority chairman of the Health  
2 Committee and the chairman and minority chairman of the Children  
3 and Youth Committee of the House of Representatives. The report  
4 shall include an assessment of all of the following:

5 (1) the benefits of establishing school-based influenza  
6 vaccination programs for the purpose of achieving the  
7 Advisory Committee for Immunization Practices recommendation  
8 for annual influenza vaccination of all children aged six  
9 months to 18 years of age;

10 (2) the rate of participation for students offered both  
11 shots and needle-free vaccine delivery methods;

12 (3) the school and community influenza infection rates  
13 following the school-based influenza vaccination program;

14 (4) the school-based influenza vaccination program's  
15 impact on student absenteeism rates; and

16 (5) the cost of establishing school-based vaccination  
17 programs for influenza vaccination across this Commonwealth.

18 Section 3. Effective date.

19 This act shall take effect in 60 days.