

2021 -- H 5706

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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2021

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A N A C T

RELATING TO HEALTH AND SAFETY – DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

Introduced By: Representatives Phillips, Carson, Serpa, Fellela, Casey, and S Lima

Date Introduced: February 24, 2021

Referred To: House Health & Human Services

It is enacted by the General Assembly as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Section 23-1-44 of the General Laws in Chapter 23-1 entitled "Department  
2 of Health" is hereby amended to read as follows:

3 **23-1-44. Routine childhood and adult immunization vaccines.**

4 (a) The department of health shall include in the department's immunization program those  
5 vaccines for routine childhood immunization as recommended by the Advisory Committee for  
6 Immunization Practices (ACIP) and the Academy of Pediatrics (AAP), and for routine adult  
7 immunization as recommended by the ACIP, to the extent permitted by available funds. The  
8 immunization program includes administrative and quality assurance services and the Rhode Island  
9 Child and Adult Immunization Registry (RICAIR), a confidential, computerized information  
10 system that is used to manage statewide immunizations, for all persons in Rhode Island.

11 (b) The director of the department of health shall appoint an advisory committee that will  
12 be convened after the ACIP makes a recommendation regarding immunization. The committee will  
13 review the ACIP recommendations for the state; assess the vaccine cost and feasibility; and advise  
14 the director of health and the office of the health insurance commissioner regarding insurers and  
15 providers acting on the ACIP immunization recommendation. All recommendations will be posted  
16 on the department of health website. The advisory committee membership shall include, but not be  
17 limited to, a primary care provider, pharmacist, representatives of the nursing home industry, the  
18 home healthcare industry and major insurers.

19 (c) For the purpose of protecting patients' information, all personally-identifiable

1 information obtained pursuant to this section shall be subject to the privacy protections of chapter  
2 37.3 of title 5 and the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996, Pub. L. No.  
3 104-191 (HIPAA), as amended.

4 (d) On any form (the "form) issued by a public or private school in this state to a parent,  
5 guardian, or person responsible for a pupil, regarding vaccination requirements prior to that pupil  
6 being allowed access to or entrance into the school, the form shall include information that the  
7 parent, guardian, or responsible person may opt out of the vaccination requirement for the pupil  
8 based upon a religious or medical exemption. This section shall apply regardless of whether the  
9 form is issued in a traditional or "hard copy" format, or as an electronic version, or in some other  
10 format.

11 SECTION 2. This act shall take effect upon passage.

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EXPLANATION  
BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL  
OF

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RELATING TO HEALTH AND SAFETY – DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

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- 1           This act would provide that school forms pertaining to vaccination requirements include
- 2 information about religious and medical exemptions.
- 3           This act would take effect upon passage.

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