



Sub. H.B. 142

125th General Assembly
(As Passed by the General Assembly)

Reps. Hagan, Willamowski, Schmidt, Setzer, Husted, Schaffer, Seitz, Kearns, Gilb, McGregor, Hoops, Jolivette, Collier, White, Williams, Hollister, Reinhard, Miller, Otterman, Redfern, Allen, Carano, D. Evans, Barrett, Chandler, Ujvagi, S. Smith, Yates, DeBose, Reidelbach, Taylor, Schneider, Beatty, Aslanides, Boccieri, Brown, Buehrer, Callender, Carmichael, Clancy, Daniels, Domenick, C. Evans, Faber, Hartnett, Harwood, Hughes, Kilbane, Koziura, Niehaus, Oelslager, T. Patton, Price, Schlichter, Seaver, G. Smith, D. Stewart, J. Stewart, Strahorn, Trakas, Webster, Wilson, Woodard

Sens. Armbruster, Amstutz, Robert Gardner, Stivers, Schuring

Effective date: *

ACT SUMMARY

- Requires the Ohio Department of Health to make available on its web site information about meningococcal meningitis and hepatitis B and vaccines for those diseases, and a meningitis and hepatitis B vaccination status statement form.
- Requires the Department to provide written notice to school districts, private schools, and institutions of higher education of the availability on its web site of information about meningococcal meningitis hepatitis B and vaccines for those diseases.
- Requires state and nonprofit institutions of higher education and private career schools to provide to students who apply for residence in on-campus student housing a copy of the meningitis and hepatitis B vaccination status statement from the Department's website or a similar statement provided by the institutions or schools.

** The Legislative Service Commission had not received formal notification of the effective date at the time this analysis was prepared. Additionally, the analysis may not reflect action taken by the Governor.*

- Effective with the academic year starting on or after July 1, 2005, prohibits state and nonprofit institutions of higher education and private career schools from providing on-campus student housing to any student who has not submitted a meningitis and hepatitis B vaccination status statement form.

CONTENT AND OPERATION

Background

Meningitis in college students

Meningococcal meningitis is a rare but potentially fatal bacterial infection most commonly expressed either as meningitis, an attack of the brain and spinal cord, or meningococemia, an accumulation of the bacterium *Neisseria meningitidis* in the blood.

Studies show that young people age 15 to 24 years are at greatest risk of contracting meningococcal meningitis, and that in recent years there has been an increase in the number of college outbreaks. Freshmen living in dormitories are found to have a sixfold increased risk for the disease. The Meningitis Foundation reports that the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention now recommends college students, particularly freshmen living in dormitories, learn more about meningococcal meningitis and consider vaccination.¹

Hepatitis B

Hepatitis B is the most common serious liver infection. It is caused by the hepatitis B virus and is spread through contact with infected blood or body fluids that contain blood. Long term effects of hepatitis B infection are cirrhosis or cancer of the liver. Hepatitis B infection can be prevented by vaccine. Infection is divided into two categories, acute and chronic. People at risk include those who have multiple sexual partners, live with an infected person, have tattoos or body piercings, or who use intravenous drugs.²

¹ *The Meningitis Foundation of America, <http://www.musa.org/facts.html>, visited 3-11-04.*

² *The Hepatitis B Foundation, <http://www.hepb.org>, visited 3-11-04.*

Duties of the Department of Health

(sec. 3701.133)

The act requires the Ohio Department of Health to make available on its web site information about the risks associated with meningococcal meningitis and hepatitis B and the availability and effectiveness of vaccines.³ The Department must also provide written notice of the availability on its web site of meningococcal meningitis and hepatitis B information to the following:

- (1) Each public school district;
- (2) Each nonpublic school, whether chartered, nonchartered, or nontax supported, that enrolls students in ninth grade or the equivalent educational level;
- (3) Each community school that enrolls students in ninth grade or the equivalent education level;
- (4) Each state institution of higher education;
- (5) Each nonprofit institution of higher education;⁴
- (6) Each private career school.⁵

The act also requires the Department to make available on its web site, in a format suitable for downloading, a meningitis and hepatitis B vaccination status statement form for a student, or, if the student is younger than 18 years of age, the student's parent, to complete to disclose whether the student has been vaccinated against meningococcal meningitis and hepatitis B. The form must include the following:

- (1) The information that the act requires the Department of Health to make available on its web site regarding meningococcal meningitis and hepatitis B, the

³ "Vaccine" is not defined in the act. However, according to Webster's Ninth New Collegiate Dictionary, a "vaccine" is the preparation of killed microorganisms administered to increase immunity to a particular disease. "Vaccination" is the act of administering a vaccine.

⁴ As defined by the act, "nonprofit institution of higher education" means a nonprofit college, university, or other institution that offers instruction in recognized academic and professional fields of study and awards degrees for fulfilling requirements of academic work beyond high school.

⁵ Private career schools provide career training at the post-secondary level.



risks associated with meningococcal meningitis and hepatitis B, and the availability and effectiveness of vaccines and a means for the student or the student's parent to acknowledge having received and read the information;

(2) A space for the student or the student's parent to indicate that either (a) the student has been vaccinated against meningococcal meningitis and the year of the vaccination or (b) the student has not been vaccinated against meningococcal meningitis.

(3) A space for the student or the student's parent to indicate that either (a) the student has been vaccinated against hepatitis B and the year of the vaccination or (b) the student has not been vaccinated against hepatitis B.

Vaccination for students in on-campus housing

(secs. 1713.55, 3332.25, and 3345.85)

Beginning with the 2005 academic year, the act prohibits any state institution of higher education, nonprofit institution of higher education, or private career school from allowing a student who has not submitted a meningitis and hepatitis B vaccination status statement from residing in the institution's on-campus housing.⁶ On receiving a student's application for residence in on-campus student housing, an institution or school subject to the act must inform the student of the disclosure requirement and provide the student with a copy of the meningitis and hepatitis B vaccination status statement from the Department of Health's web site or a meningitis and hepatitis B status statement created by the institution or school that meets the requirements that must be met by the Department of Health's statement. The copy of the statement must be in written form or, if the school has a secure web site, in electronic form.

The act states that it does not require an institution or school to provide or pay for any student's vaccination against meningococcal meningitis or hepatitis B.

HISTORY

ACTION	DATE	JOURNAL ENTRY
Introduced	03-25-03	p. 278
Reported, H. Health	05-21-03	p. 500

⁶ "On-campus housing" means a dormitory or other student residence that is owned or operated by, or located on the campus of, a state institution of higher education, nonprofit institution of higher education, or private career school.

Passed House (97-0)	06-03-03	pp.	534-535
Reported, S. Health, Human Services & Aging	03-16-04	p.	1617
Passed Senate (32-0)	03-17-04	pp.	1635-1636
House concurred in Senate amendments (97-0)	03-23-04	pp.	1722-1723

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