

ASSEMBLY, No. 1603

STATE OF NEW JERSEY 219th LEGISLATURE

PRE-FILED FOR INTRODUCTION IN THE 2020 SESSION

Sponsored by:

Assemblywoman PAMELA R. LAMPITT

District 6 (Burlington and Camden)

SYNOPSIS

Requires human papillomavirus vaccinations for students in grades six through 12.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

Introduced Pending Technical Review by Legislative Counsel.



A1603 LAMPITT

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1 AN ACT requiring human papillomavirus vaccinations for students
2 in grades six through 12 and supplementing Title 18A of the
3 New Jersey Statutes.

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5 **BE IT ENACTED** by the Senate and General Assembly of the State
6 of New Jersey:

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8 1. a. The Commissioner of Health shall require the
9 immunization of a child for human papillomavirus as a condition of
10 enrollment in grades six through 12, or comparable age level for
11 special education programs, except as provided in section 2 of this
12 act.

13 b. Beginning with the 2016-2017 school year, a principal,
14 director, or other person in charge of a public or private school in
15 this State shall not knowingly admit or retain in grades six through
16 12, or comparable age level for special education programs, a child
17 whose parent or guardian has not submitted acceptable evidence of
18 the child's immunization for human papillomavirus prior to or
19 during enrollment in sixth grade, or comparable age level for
20 special education programs, as provided by regulation of the
21 Commissioner of Health.

22 c. The Commissioner of Health shall adopt rules and
23 regulations pursuant to the "Administrative Procedure Act,"
24 P.L.1968, c.410 (C.52:14B-1 et seq.) to carry out the purposes of
25 this act.

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27 2. A student shall not be required to receive a vaccination
28 pursuant to section 1 of this act based upon one of the following:

29 a. a written statement submitted to the public or private school,
30 as applicable, by a licensed physician indicating that the vaccine is
31 medically contraindicated for a specific period of time and the
32 reasons for the medical contraindication, based upon valid medical
33 reasons as determined by regulation of the Commissioner of Health,
34 which shall exempt the student from the vaccination for the stated
35 period of time; or

36 b. a written statement submitted to the public or private school,
37 as applicable, by the student or, if the student is a minor, the
38 student's parent or guardian, explaining how the administration of
39 the vaccine conflicts with the bona fide religious tenets or practices
40 of the student or the parent or guardian, as appropriate; except that a
41 general philosophical or moral objection to the vaccination shall not
42 be sufficient for an exemption on religious grounds.

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44 3. This act shall take effect immediately.

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STATEMENT

This bill stipulates that the Commissioner of Health would require the immunization of a child for human papillomavirus (HPV) as a condition of enrollment in grades six through 12 or comparable age level for special education programs.

Beginning with the 2016-2017 school year, a principal, director, or other person in charge of a public or private school in this State would not knowingly admit or retain in grades six through 12, or comparable age level for special education programs, a child whose parent or guardian did not submit acceptable evidence of the child's immunization for HPV prior to or during enrollment in sixth grade.

The bill also provides that a student would be exempt from receiving the vaccination if a written statement is submitted to the public or private school: by a licensed physician indicating that the vaccine is medically contraindicated for a specific period of time and the reasons for the medical contraindication, based upon valid medical reasons; or by the student or, if the student is a minor, by the student's parent or guardian, explaining how the vaccination conflicts with the bona fide religious tenets or practices of the student or the parent or guardian, as appropriate.

Under the bill's provisions, a general philosophical or moral objection to the vaccination would not be sufficient grounds for a religious exemption to the student receiving the vaccination.