

3703

2013-2014 Regular Sessions

I N A S S E M B L Y

January 28, 2013

Introduced by M. of A. PEOPLES-STOKES -- read once and referred to the
Committee on Health

AN ACT to amend the public health law, in relation to raising the level
of immunity of children against meningococcal disease

THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK, REPRESENTED IN SENATE AND ASSEMBLY, DO ENACT AS FOLLOWS:

1 Section 1. Section 2167 of the public health law, as added by chapter
2 165 of the laws of 2003, is amended to read as follows:
3 S 2167. Immunization against meningococcal meningitis. 1. As used in
4 this section, unless the context requires otherwise:
5 a. The term "student" means [a] ANY person WHO IS IN SEVENTH GRADE OR
6 A COMPARABLE AGE LEVEL SPECIAL EDUCATION PROGRAM WITH AN UNASSIGNED
7 GRADE AT A SCHOOL, OR attending an institution and, in the case of a
8 student attending college, "student" means a person who is registered to
9 attend or who attends classes at an institution, who is enrolled for at
10 least six semester hours or the equivalent per semester, or at least
11 four semester hours per quarter.
12 b. The term "institution" means an academy or college, as defined in
13 section two of the education law, or a children's overnight camp as
14 defined in section one thousand three hundred ninety-two of this chap-
15 ter, where the person attending such camp remains overnight for a period
16 of not fewer than seven days.
17 c. The term "immunization" means an adequate dose or doses of an
18 immunizing agent against meningococcal meningitis which meets the stand-
19 ards approved by the United States public health service for such
20 biological products and which is approved by the department under such
21 conditions as may be specified by the public health AND HEALTH PLANNING
22 council.
23 D. THE TERM "SCHOOL" MEANS ANY PUBLIC, PRIVATE OR PAROCHIAL INTERME-
24 DIATE OR SECONDARY SCHOOL.

EXPLANATION--Matter in ITALICS (underscored) is new; matter in brackets
[] is old law to be omitted.

LBD02573-01-3

1 2. Each institution AND SCHOOL shall distribute, in a form provided or
2 approved by the commissioner, written information about meningococcal
3 meningitis and meningitis immunization to all students. The information
4 provided by the institution OR SCHOOL shall include, but not be limited
5 to, the following:

6 a. a description of the disease and means of transmission;
7 b. the benefits, risks, and effectiveness of immunization;
8 c. the availability and cost of immunization, including an indication
9 of whether or not the institution OR SCHOOL offers meningococcal meningi-
10 tis immunization services.

11 3. Each institution AND SCHOOL shall also distribute, in a form
12 provided or approved by the commissioner [of health], a response form,
13 to be completed by the student or, where the student is under the age of
14 eighteen years, such student's parent or guardian, which shall include
15 the following:

16 a. The student, or if under the age of eighteen years the parent or
17 guardian of the student, certifies that the student has already received
18 immunization against meningococcal meningitis within the ten years
19 preceding the date of the response form;

20 b. The student, or if under the age of eighteen years the parent or
21 guardian of such student, has received and reviewed the information
22 provided by the institution OR SCHOOL, understands the risks of meningo-
23 coccal meningitis and the benefits of immunization, and has decided that
24 the student shall not obtain immunization against meningococcal meningi-
25 tis.

26 The student, or if under the age of eighteen years the parent or guar-
27 dian of such student, shall indicate his or her decision in a box or
28 space placed appropriately on the form and shall return the completed
29 form to the institution OR SCHOOL. Nothing in this subdivision shall be
30 construed to prohibit an institution OR SCHOOL from incorporating the
31 form required by this subdivision into another health certificate or
32 form required by the institution OR SCHOOL.

33 4. Each institution AND SCHOOL shall maintain [completed] A RECORD OF
34 THE response [forms].

35 5. No institution shall permit any student to attend the institution
36 in excess of thirty days without complying with this section; provided,
37 however, that such thirty day period may be extended to not more than
38 sixty days if a student can show a good faith effort to comply with this
39 section.

40 6. Nothing in this section shall be construed to prohibit institutions
41 AND SCHOOLS from adopting or maintaining more stringent policies regard-
42 ing immunization against meningococcal meningitis.

43 S 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 2014; provided, that, effec-
44 tive immediately, any actions necessary to implement the provisions of
45 this act on its effective date are authorized and directed to be
46 completed on or before such date.