

4324

2015-2016 Regular Sessions

I N S E N A T E

March 13, 2015

Introduced by Sens. HANNON, AVELLA -- read twice and ordered printed,
and when printed to be committed to the Committee on Health

AN ACT to amend the public health law, in relation to meningococcal
immunizations

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

1 Section 1. Section 2164 of the public health law, as added by chapter
2 994 of the laws of 1966, the section heading and subdivisions 3, 5, and
3 6, paragraph (a) of subdivision 7 and the opening paragraph of subdivi-
4 sion 8-a as amended by chapter 189 of the laws of 2006, paragraph b of
5 subdivision 1 and subdivision 7 as amended by chapter 443 of the laws of
6 1979, paragraph c of subdivision 1 as amended by chapter 119 of the laws
7 of 2005, paragraph d of subdivision 1 as added and subdivisions 4 and
8 8-a as amended by chapter 538 of the laws of 1989, subdivision 2 as
9 separately amended by chapters 189 and 506 of the laws of 2006, subdivi-
10 sions 8 and 10 as renumbered by chapter 633 of the laws of 1975, subdivi-
11 sion 9 as separately amended by chapters 405 and 538 of the laws of
12 1989, subdivision 10 as added by chapter 1094 of the laws of 1968, and
13 subdivision 11 as added by chapter 521 of the laws of 1994, is amended
14 to read as follows:

15 S 2164. Definitions; immunization against poliomyelitis, mumps,
16 measles, diphtheria, rubella, varicella, Haemophilus influenzae type b
17 (Hib), pertussis, tetanus, pneumococcal disease, MENINGOCOCCAL DISEASE,
18 and hepatitis B. 1. As used in this section, unless the context
19 requires otherwise:

20 a. The term "school" means and includes any public, private or paro-
21 chial child caring center, day nursery, day care agency, nursery school,
22 kindergarten, elementary, intermediate or secondary school.

23 b. The term "child" shall mean and include any person between the ages
24 of two months and eighteen years.

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

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1 c. The term "person in parental relation to a child" shall mean and
2 include his father or mother, by birth or adoption, his legally
3 appointed guardian, or his custodian. A person shall be regarded as the
4 custodian of a child if he has assumed the charge and care of the child
5 because the parents or legally appointed guardian of the minor have
6 died, are imprisoned, are mentally ill, or have been committed to an
7 institution, or because they have abandoned or deserted such child or
8 are living outside the state or their whereabouts are unknown, or have
9 designated the person pursuant to title fifteen-A of article five of the
10 general obligations law as a person in parental relation to the child.

11 d. The term "health practitioner" shall mean any person authorized by
12 law to administer an immunization.

13 2. a. Every person in parental relation to a child in this state shall
14 have administered to such child an adequate dose or doses of an immuniz-
15 ing agent against poliomyelitis, mumps, measles, diphtheria, rubella,
16 varicella, Haemophilus influenzae type b (Hib), pertussis, tetanus,
17 pneumococcal disease, and hepatitis B, which meets the standards
18 approved by the United States public health service for such biological
19 products, and which is approved by the department under such conditions
20 as may be specified by the public health council.

21 b. Every person in parental relation to a child in this state born on
22 or after January first, nineteen hundred ninety-four and entering sixth
23 grade or a comparable age level special education program with an unas-
24 signed grade on or after September first, two thousand seven, shall have
25 administered to such child a booster immunization containing diphtheria
26 and tetanus toxoids, and an acellular pertussis vaccine, which meets the
27 standards approved by the United States public health service for such
28 biological products, and which is approved by the department under such
29 conditions as may be specified by the public health council.

30 C. EVERY PERSON IN PARENTAL RELATION TO A CHILD IN THIS STATE ENTERING
31 OR HAVING ENTERED SIXTH GRADE AND ELEVENTH GRADE OR A COMPARABLE AGE
32 LEVEL SPECIAL EDUCATION PROGRAM WITH AN UNASSIGNED GRADE ON OR AFTER
33 SEPTEMBER FIRST, TWO THOUSAND FIFTEEN, SHALL HAVE ADMINISTERED TO SUCH
34 CHILD AN ADEQUATE DOSE OR DOSES OF IMMUNIZING AGENTS AGAINST MENINGOCOC-
35 CAL DISEASE AS RECOMMENDED BY THE ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON IMMUNIZATION
36 PRACTICES OF THE CENTERS FOR DISEASE CONTROL AND PREVENTION, WHICH MEETS
37 THE STANDARDS APPROVED BY THE UNITED STATES PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICE FOR
38 SUCH BIOLOGICAL PRODUCTS, AND WHICH IS APPROVED BY THE DEPARTMENT UNDER
39 SUCH CONDITIONS AS MAY BE SPECIFIED BY THE PUBLIC HEALTH COUNCIL.

40 3. The person in parental relation to any such child who has not
41 previously received such immunization shall present the child to a
42 health practitioner and request such health practitioner to administer
43 the necessary immunization against poliomyelitis, mumps, measles,
44 diphtheria, Haemophilus influenzae type b (Hib), rubella, varicella,
45 pertussis, tetanus, pneumococcal disease, MENINGOCOCCAL DISEASE, and
46 hepatitis B as provided in subdivision two of this section.

47 4. If any person in parental relation to such child is unable to pay
48 for the services of a private health practitioner, such person shall
49 present such child to the health officer of the county in which the
50 child resides, who shall then administer the immunizing agent without
51 charge.

52 5. The health practitioner who administers such immunizing agent
53 against poliomyelitis, mumps, measles, diphtheria, Haemophilus influen-
54 zae type b (Hib), rubella, varicella, pertussis, tetanus, pneumococcal
55 disease, MENINGOCOCCAL DISEASE, and hepatitis B to any such child shall

1 give a certificate of such immunization to the person in parental
2 relation to such child.

3 6. In the event that a person in parental relation to a child makes
4 application for admission of such child to a school or has a child
5 attending school and there exists no certificate or other acceptable
6 evidence of the child's immunization against poliomyelitis, mumps,
7 measles, diphtheria, rubella, varicella, hepatitis B, pertussis, tetanus,
8 and, where applicable, Haemophilus influenzae type b (Hib), MENINGOCOCCAL
9 DISEASE, and pneumococcal disease, the principal, teacher,
10 owner or person in charge of the school shall inform such person of the
11 necessity to have the child immunized, that such immunization may be
12 administered by any health practitioner, or that the child may be immunized
13 without charge by the health officer in the county where the child
14 resides, if such person executes a consent therefor. In the event that
15 such person does not wish to select a health practitioner to administer
16 the immunization, he or she shall be provided with a form which shall
17 give notice that as a prerequisite to processing the application for
18 admission to, or for continued attendance at, the school such person
19 shall state a valid reason for withholding consent or consent shall be
20 given for immunization to be administered by a health officer in the
21 public employ, or by a school physician or nurse. The form shall provide
22 for the execution of a consent by such person and it shall also state
23 that such person need not execute such consent if subdivision eight or
24 nine of this section apply to such child.

25 7. (a) No principal, teacher, owner or person in charge of a school
26 shall permit any child to be admitted to such school, or to attend such
27 school, in excess of fourteen days, without the certificate provided for
28 in subdivision five of this section or some other acceptable evidence of
29 the child's immunization against poliomyelitis, mumps, measles, diphtheria,
30 rubella, varicella, hepatitis B, pertussis, tetanus, and, where
31 applicable, Haemophilus influenzae type b (Hib), MENINGOCOCCAL DISEASE,
32 and pneumococcal disease; provided, however, such fourteen day period
33 may be extended to not more than thirty days for an individual student
34 by the appropriate principal, teacher, owner or other person in charge
35 where such student is transferring from out-of-state or from another
36 country and can show a good faith effort to get the necessary certification
37 or other evidence of immunization.

38 (b) A parent, a guardian or any other person in parental relationship
39 to a child denied school entrance or attendance may appeal by petition
40 to the commissioner of education in accordance with the provisions of
41 section three hundred ten of the education law.

42 8. If any physician licensed to practice medicine in this state certifies
43 that such immunization may be detrimental to a child's health, the
44 requirements of this section shall be inapplicable until such immunization
45 is found no longer to be detrimental to the child's health.

46 8-a. Whenever a child has been refused admission to, or continued
47 attendance at, a school as provided for in subdivision seven of this
48 section because there exists no certificate provided for in subdivision
49 five of this section or other acceptable evidence of the child's immunization
50 against poliomyelitis, mumps, measles, diphtheria, rubella, varicella,
51 hepatitis B, pertussis, tetanus, and, where applicable, Haemophilus
52 influenzae type b (Hib), MENINGOCOCCAL DISEASE, and pneumococcal
53 disease, the principal, teacher, owner or person in charge of the school
54 shall:

55 a. forward a report of such exclusion and the name and address of such
56 child to the local health authority and to the person in parental

1 relation to the child together with a notification of the responsibility
2 of such person under subdivision two of this section and a form of
3 consent as prescribed by regulation of the commissioner, and

4 b. provide, with the cooperation of the appropriate local health
5 authority, for a time and place at which an immunizing agent or agents
6 shall be administered, as required by subdivision two of this section,
7 to a child for whom a consent has been obtained. Upon failure of a local
8 health authority to cooperate in arranging for a time and place at which
9 an immunizing agent or agents shall be administered as required by
10 subdivision two of this section, the commissioner shall arrange for such
11 administration and may recover the cost thereof from the amount of state
12 aid to which the local health authority would otherwise be entitled.

13 9. This section shall not apply to children whose parent, parents, or
14 guardian hold genuine and sincere religious beliefs which are contrary
15 to the practices herein required, and no certificate shall be required
16 as a prerequisite to such children being admitted or received into
17 school or attending school.

18 10. The commissioner may adopt and amend rules and regulations to
19 effectuate the provisions and purposes of this section.

20 11. Every school shall annually provide the commissioner, on forms
21 provided by the commissioner, a summary regarding compliance with the
22 provisions of this section.

23 S 2. This act shall take effect immediately.