

An act to amend Sections 120325 and 120335 of, and to repeal Section 120338 of, the Health and Safety Code, relating to public health.

> Introduced by Senator Richard Pan, January 24, 2022

- (Principal coauthors: Senators Josh Newman and Scott Wiener)
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Sen. Richard Pan



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SB 871 – Public health: immunizations

Existing law prohibits the governing authority of a school or other institution from unconditionally admitting any person as a pupil of any public or private elementary or secondary school, childcare center, day nursery, nursery school, family day care home, or development center, unless prior to their admission to that institution they have been fully immunized against various diseases, including measles, mumps, pertussis, hepatitis B, and any other disease deemed appropriate by the State Department of Public Health, as specified. Existing law authorizes an exemption from those provisions for medical reasons.

Under existing law, notwithstanding the above-described prohibition, full immunization against hepatitis B is not a condition by which the governing authority admits or advances a pupil to the 7th grade level of a public or private elementary or secondary school.

This bill would remove the above-described exception relating to hepatitis B. The bill would additionally prohibit the governing authority of a school or other institution from unconditionally admitting any person as a pupil of any public or private elementary or secondary school, childcare center, day nursery, nursery school, family day care home, or development center, unless prior to their admission to that institution they have been fully immunized against COVID-19. To the extent that the bill would create new duties for school districts, the bill would impose a state-mandated local program.

For purposes of the additional immunizations deemed appropriate by the department, and that would be mandated before a pupil's first admission to the institution, existing law requires that exemptions be allowed for both medical reasons and personal beliefs.

This bill would repeal that provision, thereby removing the personal belief exemption from any additional immunization requirements deemed appropriate by the department.

The California Constitution requires the state to reimburse local agencies and school districts for certain costs mandated by the state. Statutory provisions establish procedures for making that reimbursement. This bill would provide that, if the Commission on State Mandates determines that the bill contains costs mandated by the state, reimbursement for those costs shall be made pursuant to the statutory provisions noted above.

SECTION I: Section 120325 of the Health and Safety Code is amended to read:
120325.

In enacting this chapter, but excluding Section 120380, and in enacting Sections 120400, 120405, 120410, and 120415, it is the intent of the Legislature to ~~provide:~~ provide all of the following:

- (a) A means for the eventual achievement of total immunization of appropriate age groups against the following childhood diseases: (1) Diphtheria, (2) Hepatitis B, (3) Haemophilus influenzae type b, (4) Measles, (5) Mumps, (6) Pertussis (whooping cough), (7) Poliomyelitis, (8) Rubella, (9) Tetanus, (10) Varicella (chickenpox), (11) COVID-19.

~~(11)~~

(12) Any other disease deemed appropriate by the department, taking into consideration the recommendations of the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices of the United States Department of Health and Human Services, the American Academy of Pediatrics, and the American Academy of Family Physicians.

(b) That the persons required to be immunized be allowed to obtain immunizations from whatever medical source they so desire, subject only to the condition that the immunization be performed in accordance with the regulations of the department and that a record of the immunization is made in accordance with the regulations.

(c) Exemptions from immunization for medical reasons.

(d) For the keeping of adequate records of immunization so that health departments, schools, and other institutions, parents or guardians, and the persons immunized will be able to ascertain that a child is fully or only partially immunized, and so that appropriate public agencies will be able to ascertain the immunization needs of groups of children in schools or other institutions.

(e) Incentives to public health authorities to design innovative and creative programs that will promote and achieve full and timely immunization of children.

SEC. 2.

Section 120335 of the Health and Safety Code is amended to read:

120335.

(a) As used in this chapter, "governing authority" means the governing board of each school district or the authority of each other private or public institution responsible for the operation and control of the institution or the principal or administrator of each school or institution.

(b) The governing authority shall not unconditionally admit any person as a pupil of any private or public elementary or secondary school, child care center, day nursery, nursery school, family day care home, or development center, unless, prior to ~~his or her~~ *their* first admission to that institution, ~~he or she has~~ *they have* been fully immunized. The following are the diseases for which immunizations shall be documented: (1) Diphtheria, (2) Haemophilus influenzae type b, (3) Measles, (4) Mumps, (5) Pertussis (whooping cough), (6) Poliomyelitis, (7) Rubella, (8) Tetanus, (9) Hepatitis B, (10) Varicella (chickenpox), ~~(11) COVID-19.~~

~~(11)~~

(12) Any other disease deemed appropriate by the department, taking into consideration the recommendations of the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices of the United States Department of Health and Human Services, the American Academy of Pediatrics, and the American Academy of Family Physicians.

~~(c) Notwithstanding subdivision (b), full immunization against hepatitis B shall not be a condition by which the governing authority shall admit or advance any pupil to the 7th grade level of any private or public elementary or secondary school.~~

~~(d)~~

(c) The governing authority shall not unconditionally admit or advance any pupil to the 7th grade level of any private or public elementary or secondary school unless the pupil has been fully immunized against pertussis, including all pertussis boosters appropriate for the pupil's age.

~~(e)~~

(d) The department may specify the immunizing agents that may be utilized and the manner in which immunizations are administered.

~~(f)~~

(e) This section does not apply to a pupil in a home-based private school or a pupil who is enrolled in an independent study program pursuant to Article 5.5 (commencing with Section 51745) of Chapter 5 of Part 28 of Division 4 of Title 2 of the Education Code and does not receive classroom-based instruction.

~~(g)~~

(f) (1) A pupil who, prior to January 1, 2016, submitted a letter or affidavit on file at a private or public elementary or secondary school, child day care center, day nursery, nursery school, family day care home, or development center stating beliefs opposed to immunization shall be allowed enrollment to any private or public elementary or secondary school, child day care center, day nursery, nursery school, family day care home, or development center within the state until the pupil enrolls in the next grade span.

(2) For purposes of this subdivision, “*grade span*” means each of the following:

(A) Birth to preschool.

(B) Kindergarten and grades 1 to 6, inclusive, including transitional kindergarten.

(C) Grades 7 to 12, inclusive.

(3) Except as provided in this subdivision, on and after July 1, 2016, the governing authority shall not unconditionally admit to any of those institutions specified in this subdivision for the first time, or admit or advance any pupil to 7th grade level, unless the pupil has been immunized for ~~his or her~~ *their* age as required by this section.

~~(h)~~

(g) This section does not prohibit a pupil who qualifies for an individualized education program, pursuant to federal law and Section 56026 of the Education Code, from accessing any special education and related services required by ~~his or her~~ *their* individualized education program.

SEC. 3.

Section 120338 of the Health and Safety Code is repealed.

~~120338.~~

~~Notwithstanding Sections 120325 and 120335, any immunizations deemed appropriate by the department pursuant to paragraph (11) of subdivision (a) of Section 120325 or paragraph (11) of subdivision (b) of Section 120335, may be mandated before a pupil's first admission to any private or public elementary or secondary school, child care center, day nursery, nursery school, family day care home, or development center, only if exemptions are allowed for both medical reasons and personal beliefs.~~

SEC. 4.

If the Commission on State Mandates determines that this act contains costs mandated by the state, reimbursement to local agencies and school districts for those costs shall be made pursuant to Part 7 (commencing with Section 17500) of Division 4 of Title 2 of the Government Code.

Status:

February 07, 2022 Joint Rule 55 suspended. (Ayes 31. Noes 6.)

30-Day Waiting Period. A bill other than the Budget Bill may not be heard or acted upon by committee or either house until the bill has been in print for 30 days. The date a bill is returned from the printer shall be entered in the Daily History. This rule may be suspended concurrently with the suspension of the requirement of Section 8 of Article IV of the Constitution or, if that period has expired, this rule may be suspended by approval of the Committee on Rules and two-thirds vote of the house in which the bill is being considered.

February 07, 2022 Art. IV. Sec. 8(a) of the Constitution dispensed with

(a) At regular sessions no bill other than the budget bill may be heard or acted on by committee or either house until the 31st day after the bill is introduced unless the house dispenses with this requirement by rollcall vote entered in the journal, three fourths of the membership concurring.