

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 137

BY SENATOR CATHEY

A RESOLUTION

To urge and request the office of public health, Louisiana Department of Health, to provide a comprehensive list of all schools, kindergartens, colleges, universities, proprietary schools, vocational schools, and licensed day care centers that have sought approval of the office to require a COVID-19 immunization pursuant to R.S. 17:170(A)(3).

WHEREAS, in December 2020, the United States Food and Drug Administration (FDA) approved the first COVID-19 vaccination in the United States; and

WHEREAS, upon receiving FDA approval, the United States Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP), comprised of an independent panel of medical and public health experts, makes a recommendation on availability to the public; and

WHEREAS, due to the limited availability of the COVID-19 vaccine at the outset, the ACIP not only made a general recommendation, but also made recommendations based on priority of availability due to risk of exposure and age; and

WHEREAS, in May 2021, the Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine was approved for adolescents age twelve and up; and

WHEREAS, the Moderna-NIAID vaccine is expected to receive authorization for administration to children age twelve and up by summer 2021 and the Johnson & Johnson vaccine is currently undergoing clinical trials for children age twelve and older; and

WHEREAS, it is expected that by late 2021 the Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine may be available for children as young as two years old; and

WHEREAS, R.S. 17:170 provides for proof of certain immunizations for persons entering elementary and secondary schools, kindergartens, colleges, universities, proprietary schools, vocational schools, and licensed day care centers, at the time of registration or entry according to a schedule approved by the office of public health; and

WHEREAS, R.S. 17:170(A)(2) provides that the current immunization schedule includes measles, mumps, rubella, diphtheria, tetanus, whooping cough, poliomyelitis, meningococcal disease, and hemophilus influenzae Type B invasive infections; and

WHEREAS, R.S. 17:170(A)(3) provides that at its own discretion and with the approval of the office of public health, an educational institution or licensed day care center may require immunizations or proof of immunity more extensive than required by the schedule approved by the office of public health; and

WHEREAS, with the COVID-19 vaccine approved for children as young as twelve years old and with the anticipation of the FDA approving the COVID-19 vaccination for children as young as two years old within the next year, it is feasible that educational institutions or licensed day care centers may seek approval from the office of public health to require the COVID-19 vaccine for entry.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby request the office of public health, Louisiana Department of Health to provide a comprehensive list of all schools, kindergartens, colleges, universities, proprietary schools, vocational schools, and licensed day care centers that have sought approval of the office to require COVID-19 immunization pursuant to R.S. 17:170(A)(3) and whether the approval was granted.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the comprehensive list requested in this Resolution be submitted to the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana on July 1, 2021, October 1, 2021, and January 1, 2022.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the assistant secretary of the office of public health, Louisiana Department of Health.

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PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE