2023 Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 399

BY REPRESENTATIVE EDMONSTON

Prefiled pursuant to Article III, Section 2(A)(4)(b)(i) of the Constitution of Louisiana.

VACCINES/VACCINATION: Requires that communication issued about immunization requirements include exemption information and applies exemptions not only to students seeking to enter school but also to students attending school.

AN ACT

To amend and reenact R.S. 17:170(E), relative to student immunization requirements; to require that any communication issued to students or their parents or guardians relative to immunization requirements include information relative to exemption from such requirements; to provide that exemptions apply to those attending schools in addition to those seeking to enter schools; and to provide for related matters.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

Section 1. R.S. 17:170(E) is hereby amended and reenacted to read as follows:

§170. Immunization of persons entering schools, kindergartens, colleges, proprietary or vocational schools, and day care centers for the first time; immunization of persons entering sixth grade; electronic transmission of immunization compliance reports; exemption

  *  *  *

E.(1) No person attending or seeking to enter any school or facility enumerated in Subsection A of this Section shall be required to comply with the provisions of this Section, including any additional immunization or proof of immunity requirement adopted pursuant to the provisions of this Section, if the student person or his parent or guardian submits either a written statement from a
physician stating that the procedure is contraindicated for medical reasons; or a
written dissent from the student or his parent or guardian is presented.

(2) Any communication issued to persons or their parents or guardians
relative to the requirements of this Section shall include the text and legal citation
of Paragraph (1) of this Subsection.

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DIGEST

The digest printed below was prepared by House Legislative Services. It constitutes no part
of the legislative instrument. The keyword, one-liner, abstract, and digest do not constitute
part of the law or proof or indicia of legislative intent. [R.S. 1:13(B) and 24:177(E)]

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Abstract: Requires that communication issued to students or parents about immunization
requirements include exemption information and applies exemptions not only to
students seeking to enter school but also to students attending school.

Present law requires each person entering any school (licensed day care centers and
elementary, secondary, and postsecondary schools) for the first time to present satisfactory
evidence of immunity to or immunization against vaccine-preventable diseases according
to a schedule approved by the office of public health or to present evidence of an
immunization program in progress. Exempts a student seeking to enter any such school or
facility from this requirement if he submits a written statement from a doctor relative to
medical contraindication or a written dissent.

Proposed law:

(1) Applies the exemption not only to students seeking to enter school but also to
students attending school.

(2) Requires that any communication issued to students or their parents or guardians
relative to immunization requirements include the text and legal citation of the
present law exemption provision.

(Amends R.S. 17:170(E))

CODING: Words in struck through type are deletions from existing law; words underscored
are additions.