

RÉSUMÉ DIGEST

HB 182

2023 Regular Session

Edmonston

Present law requires each person entering any school (licensed day care centers, elementary and secondary schools, and colleges/universities) 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 (OPH) 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 would have additionally exempted college students who only register for online courses.

Present law provides that the schedule may provide specific requirements based on age, grade in school, or type of school. Authorizes a school, with OPH approval, to require immunizations or proof of immunity more extensive than required by the OPH schedule. Proposed law would have prohibited, notwithstanding present law, requiring a person to receive a COVID-19 vaccine as a condition of initial enrollment or continuing attendance at such a school (public or nonpublic).

(Proposed to amend R.S. 17:170(F); Proposed to add R.S. 17:170(A)(4) and (G))

VETO MESSAGE:

"Please be advised that I have vetoed House Bill 182 of the Regular Session of 2023.

As I wrote in my veto message for a similar bill, House Bill 54 of the 2022 Regular Session, 'the bill is unnecessary and perpetuates the false narrative that the residents of Louisiana face vaccine mandates to access government services or attend schools. This is not the case. The bill also seeks to undermine public confidence in vaccines, which are safe, effective, and essential to public health.'

What was true a year ago remains true now. I continue to have the utmost confidence in our Department of Health to protect the health and safety of the people of Louisiana, and I trust its judgment and expertise in matters of public health. For these reasons, I have vetoed the bill.

Accordingly, House Bill 182 will not become law."