



1           WHEREAS, Meningococcal disease is spread from person to person via the  
2 exchange of the bacteria through respiratory and throat secretions during close or lengthy  
3 contact, such as sharing beverages or eating utensils, kissing, or spending time in close  
4 contact with someone who is sick or who carries the bacteria; and

5           WHEREAS, community settings in which large groups of people gather, like college  
6 campuses, can increase the risk of the spread of meningococcal disease; and

7           WHEREAS, because of the way meningitis is spread, through close personal contact,  
8 and that the social behavior of young adults ages 17-22 increases their risk of contracting the  
9 disease, students in dormitory settings and crowded events are particularly vulnerable to  
10 meningococcal disease; and

11           WHEREAS, while vaccines for serogroups A, C, W, and Y have been available for  
12 many years, prior to 2014, there were no vaccines available for serogroup B; and

13           WHEREAS, despite the existence of a serogroup B vaccine, there have been several  
14 recent outbreaks of serogroup B meningococcal disease on college campuses throughout the  
15 United States, with some cases resulting in death; and

16           WHEREAS, because the B strain of meningitis requires a new, separate vaccination,  
17 students heading to college may mistakenly think that if they received the A, C, W, and Y  
18 vaccine that they are protected against all strains and may not realize they are not protected  
19 against the B strain; and

20           WHEREAS, according to the Centers for Disease Control, *Neisseria meningitidis*  
21 serogroup B accounts for approximately half of all meningococcal cases among persons aged  
22 17-22 years in the United States; and

23           WHEREAS, vaccination for serogroups A, C, W and Y is routinely recommended  
24 by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention; and

25           WHEREAS, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's Advisory Committee  
26 on Immunization Practices recommends that decisions to vaccinate adolescents and young  
27 adults 16 through 23 years of age against serogroup B meningococcal disease should be  
28 made at the individual level with healthcare providers; and

29           WHEREAS, R.S. 17:170 requires each person entering any school in Louisiana for  
30 the first time and each child entering the sixth grade to be vaccinated against certain

