
DIGEST

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Barrow

HB No. 451

Abstract: Requires hospitals to offer pertussis (whooping cough) vaccinations to parents of newborns.

Present law requires each hospital in the state to provide parents of newborns educational information on pertussis (whooping cough) and the availability of a vaccine to protect against contracting the disease.

Proposed law revises present law to add requirement that each hospital in the state offer the pertussis vaccine to each parent of a newborn. Proposed law provides that if the person to whom the vaccine is offered declines to be vaccinated, the hospital shall provide information on the vaccine to the person in accordance with present law.

Proposed law stipulates that a hospital shall not be required to offer the vaccine, as provided in proposed law, to any person who has already received the vaccine or for whom such vaccination is medically inappropriate.

Proposed law provides that nothing in proposed law shall be construed to require any of the following:

- (1) Uncompensated administration of the pertussis vaccine by a hospital.
- (2) Provision of the pertussis vaccine to any person or health care provider by the Department of Health and Hospitals.
- (3) Financing of pertussis vaccine administration by the Department of Health and Hospitals through any program or service of the department other than one which may presently cover such vaccination.
- (4) Obligation for payment by a person or his insurer for pertussis vaccination.

Effective upon signature of governor or lapse of time for gubernatorial action.

(Amends R.S. 40:2022)