

1 HB592
2 200616-1
3 By Representatives Stadthagen, Rowe, Collins, Dismukes and
4 Farley
5 RFD: Health
6 First Read: 08-MAY-19

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8 SYNOPSIS: Under existing law, a parent or guardian of
9 a child in a public or private K-12 school is
10 required to immunize that child for participation
11 in school. Religious exemptions from this
12 requirement are allowed.

13 This bill would remove the religious
14 exemption for immunization of children in schools.

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16 A BILL
17 TO BE ENTITLED
18 AN ACT

19
20 Relating to education; to amend Section 16-30-3,
21 Code of Alabama 1975; and to remove the religious exemption
22 for immunization of children in schools.

23 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA:

24 Section 1. The Legislature finds and declares as
25 follows:

1 (1) Our nation currently faces an immediate public
2 health crisis stemming from the rapid spread of communicable
3 diseases.

4 (2) Many of these diseases are preventable due to
5 the wide availability of vaccinations and the advancement of
6 modern medicine.

7 (3) In order to combat the spread of communicable
8 diseases, citizens of this state should be vigilant about
9 shielding themselves from those diseases through all available
10 means.

11 (4) Although comprehensive vaccinations against
12 communicable diseases is the best way to combat many of these
13 diseases, some citizens have opted out of receiving
14 vaccinations.

15 (5) Therefore, all citizens of this state, including
16 students in public or private schools, who are medically able
17 to receive vaccinations for the most dangerous communicable
18 diseases should do so for the betterment of the overall health
19 of this state.

20 Section 2. Section 16-30-3, Code of Alabama 1975, is
21 amended to read as follows:

22 "§16-30-3.

23 "The provisions of this chapter shall not apply if:
24 ~~(1) In the absence of an epidemic or immediate threat thereof,~~
25 ~~the parent or guardian of the child shall object thereto in~~
26 ~~writing on grounds that such immunization or testing conflicts~~
27 ~~with his religious tenets and practices; or (2) Certification~~

1 certification by a competent medical authority providing
2 individual exemption from the required immunization or testing
3 for the child for a medical reason is presented to the
4 admissions officer of the school."

5 Section 3. This act shall become effective on the
6 first day of the third month following its passage and
7 approval by the Governor, or its otherwise becoming law.