

# Senate Bill 654

Sponsored by Senator MORRISETTE

## SUMMARY

The following summary is not prepared by the sponsors of the measure and is not a part of the body thereof subject to consideration by the Legislative Assembly. It is an editor's brief statement of the essential features of the measure **as introduced**.

Requires certain entities employing licensed health care professionals to offer annual influenza vaccinations at no cost to licensed health care employees.

Declares emergency, effective on passage.

## A BILL FOR AN ACT

1  
2 Relating to influenza vaccinations; and declaring an emergency.

3 Whereas influenza is a serious infection that causes an average of 36,000 deaths and 226,000  
4 hospitalizations in the United States each year; and

5 Whereas the 2008 Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices of the Centers for Disease  
6 Control and Prevention recommended annual influenza vaccinations of all high-risk persons, includ-  
7 ing adults over 65 years of age, residents of long term care facilities, children aged 6 months to 23  
8 months, pregnant women, persons with chronic diseases and all health care personnel providing di-  
9 rect care to residents of care facilities and patients; and

10 Whereas health care personnel are at high risk for acquiring influenza infection due to their  
11 exposure to ill patients and the wider community and transmitting influenza infections to patients  
12 at high risk of developing complications from influenza; and

13 Whereas the vaccination of health care personnel has been associated with a 43 percent re-  
14 duction in the incidence of influenza infection among residents in long term care facilities and a 44  
15 percent decrease in overall mortality from influenza among facility residents; and

16 Whereas, despite the recognized benefits of vaccination of health care personnel for influenza,  
17 the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention estimates that only 40 percent of the nation's health  
18 care personnel are annually vaccinated for influenza; and

19 Whereas influenza vaccine has been shown to be efficacious and cost-effective in preventing the  
20 spread of influenza infection and is readily available in an injectable or nasal mist format; now,  
21 therefore,

22 **Be It Enacted by the People of the State of Oregon:**

23 **SECTION 1. (1) For purposes of this section:**

24 (a) **"Employer" means:**

25 (A) **An entity that employs at least 25 persons;**

26 (B) **A health care facility, as defined in ORS 442.015; or**

27 (C) **A long term care facility, as defined in ORS 442.015.**

28 (b) **"Licensed health care professional" means an individual licensed by:**

29 (A) **A health professional regulatory board, as defined in ORS 676.160; or**

30 (B) **The Oregon Health Licensing Agency to practice denture technology under ORS**  
31 **680.500 to 680.570, direct entry midwifery under ORS 687.405 to 687.495 or respiratory therapy**

**NOTE:** Matter in **boldfaced** type in an amended section is new; matter [*italic and bracketed*] is existing law to be omitted. New sections are in **boldfaced** type.

1 under ORS 688.800 to 688.840.

2 (2)(a) An employer shall offer influenza vaccinations annually to licensed health care  
3 professionals employed by the employer. The employer shall provide the vaccination at no  
4 cost to the licensed health care professional.

5 (b) An employer shall require each licensed health care professional employed by the  
6 employer to be vaccinated under this section, unless the health care professional declares in  
7 writing that the health care professional declines the vaccination.

8 SECTION 2. This 2009 Act being necessary for the immediate preservation of the public  
9 peace, health and safety, an emergency is declared to exist, and this 2009 Act takes effect  
10 on its passage.

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