

HB 3063 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

House Committee On Health Care

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Sub-Referral To: Joint Committee On Ways and Means

Meeting Dates: 2/28

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Removes the ability of a parent or legal guardian to decline immunizations required to enroll in school or child care on behalf of a child for a reason other than a child's medical diagnosis. Directs the Oregon Health Authority to establish outreach and education regarding disease control in schools by January 1, 2020. Declares emergency, effective upon passage.

REVENUE: May have revenue impact, but no statement yet issued.

FISCAL: May have fiscal impact, but no statement yet issued.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

No amendment.

BACKGROUND:

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) set the advised U.S. childhood immunization schedule based on recommendations from the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices. Immunization refers to the process of being vaccinated and developing an immunity to one or more diseases. The CDC determines the schedule based on severity of diseases, safety and efficacy of vaccines at various ages, and how many children could contract a disease without the vaccine.

According to the National Conference of State Legislatures, all 50 states have laws requiring specified vaccines for students related to school entry requirements, with all states allowing exemptions for medical reasons. Forty-seven states have non-medical exemptions on religious grounds, and 17 states allow exemptions for personal or philosophical beliefs. Currently, Oregon allows both medical and non-medical exemptions. A number of states including Oregon require parental education during the exemption process about the benefits of vaccination or the risks of opting out.

As a condition of attending any school in Oregon, every child through grade 12 is required to be immunized against 11 vaccine-preventable diseases: diphtheria, tetanus, pertussis, polio, measles, mumps, rubella, varicella, hepatitis A and B, and haemophilus influenzae type b (Hib). For a child to be exempt from all or part of the immunization requirements, a parent or guardian of a child enrolled in a public, private, or charter schools must provide one of the following:

- certification of immunizations received;
- a statement that a child should be exempted due to medical diagnosis as the child has a medical condition that puts them at risk of harm; or,
- a statement to decline one or more immunizations for non-medical purposes.

The document to decline immunizations for non-medical purposes may include reasons for declining the immunization (e.g., religious or philosophical belief) and must include either a signature from a health care practitioner verifying that they have reviewed information with the parent about risks, benefits, and the contents of a vaccine educational module, or a certificate verifying the parent has completed the vaccine educational

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module. This educational component has been required for non-medical exemptions in Oregon since 2013. Oregon law also allows immunity documentation, which is a written, signed document from a physician stating that a child does not need to receive one or more specific immunizations because the child already contracted a disease or had a blood test indicating immunity.

House Bill 3063 removes non-medical exemptions for vaccinations required for school-aged children in Oregon.