It is enacted by the General Assembly as follows:

SECTION 1. Section 23-1-44 of the General Laws in Chapter 23-1 entitled “Department of Health” is hereby amended to read as follows:

23-1-44. Routine childhood and adult immunization vaccines.

(a) The department of health shall include in the department’s immunization program those vaccines for routine childhood immunization as recommended by the Advisory Committee for Immunization Practices (ACIP) and the Academy of Pediatrics (AAP), and for adult influenza immunization as recommended by the ACIP, to the extent permitted by available funds. The childhood immunization program includes administrative and quality assurance services and KIDSNET, a confidential, computerized child health information system that is used to manage statewide immunizations, as well as other public health preventive services, for all children in Rhode Island from birth through age 18.

(b) The director of the department of health shall appoint an advisory committee that will be convened after the ACIP makes a recommendation regarding adult immunization. The committee will review the ACIP recommendations for the state, assess the vaccine cost and feasibility, and advise the director of health and the office of the health insurance commissioner regarding insurers and providers acting on the ACIP adult immunization recommendation. All recommendations will be posted on the department of health website. The advisory committee membership shall include, but not be limited to, a primary care provider, pharmacist,
representatives of the nursing home industry, the home health care industry and major insurers.

(c) Notwithstanding any provisions of this or any other statute or regulation or order to
the contrary, the department of health shall have no authority to set minimum immunization
standards for diseases which are not transmissible in a school environment, nor shall the
department of health have the authority to mandate human papillomavirus (HPV) vaccination as a
precondition for school attendance.

(d) The director of the department of health shall hold at least three (3) public hearings on
any proposed changes to the minimum standards for immunization.

SECTION 2. This act shall take effect upon passage.
This act would preclude the department of health from requiring immunization for diseases which are not transmittable in a school environment or from mandating human papillomavirus (HPV) vaccination as a precondition for school attendance. It would further require the director of the department of health to hold at least three (3) public hearings on any proposed changes to the minimum standards for immunization.

This act would take effect upon passage.