

2017 -- S 0489

LC000309

STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2017

A N A C T

RELATING TO HEALTH AND SAFETY -- DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH--  
IMMUNIZATIONS

Introduced By: Senators Morgan, Raptakis, Kettle, Metts, and Paolino

Date Introduced: March 02, 2017

Referred To: Senate Health & Human Services

It is enacted by the General Assembly as follows:

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

3 **23-1-44. Routine childhood and adult immunization vaccines.**

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

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

1 representatives of the nursing home industry, the home health care industry and major insurers.

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

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

9 SECTION 2. This act shall take effect upon passage.

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EXPLANATION  
BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL  
OF

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

6           This act would take effect upon passage.

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