

HB 705 -- Meningococcal Conjugate Vaccine

Sponsor: Kelly (45)

This bill requires the rules and regulations of the Department of Health and Senior Services to require one dose of meningococcal conjugate vaccine for any child who is 11 years of age but not yet 12 years of age and a booster dose of the vaccine after he or she attains 16 years of age.

Currently, an institution of higher education must require all students residing in on-campus housing to sign a written waiver stating that the institution has provided the student or, if the student is a minor, his or her guardian or parent with detailed written information on the risks associated with meningococcal disease and the availability and effectiveness of the meningococcal conjugate vaccine. The bill repeals that requirement and requires all students residing in on-campus housing to have received the meningococcal conjugate vaccine unless a signed statement of medical or religious exemption is on file with the institution's administration. A medical exemption requires a signed certification by a physician licensed to practice in Missouri indicating that the immunization would seriously endanger the student's health or life or the student has documentation of disease or laboratory evidence of immunity to the disease. A religious exemption requires the student to object in writing that immunization violates his or her religious beliefs.