

Act No. 37 (H.98). Health; public health; reportable diseases

An act relating to reportable disease registries and data

This act makes miscellaneous amendments to the State's reportable disease registries. It allows the Commissioner of Health to provide confidential information from Vermont's Cancer Registry to the National Breast and Cervical Cancer Early Detection Program. With regard to data on HIV and AIDS, the act removes existing requirements prohibiting the Department of Health from collecting, processing, and storing individually identifying information on networked computers to ensure that data pertaining to HIV and AIDS are treated in the same manner as information on other reportable diseases. The act also enables a school administrator to access a student's immunization registry records where there is not a school nurse on staff and enables research and interstate sharing of records within the State's Immunization Registry.

The act also makes several changes to school and child care facility immunization requirements, most notably removing the philosophical exemption to mandatory immunization beginning on July 1, 2016. In addition, the act requires schools and child care facilities to provide students or parents with the school or facility's aggregated immunization rate at the start of each academic year or upon transfer to the school or child care facility. It further requires the Department of Health to list required immunizations in rule and enables the Department to implement quality improvement measures in schools and child care facilities that have high exemption and provisional admittance rates. Other provisions in the act include the creation of the Vermont Immunization Advisory Council; a mandatory reporting requirement to the Vaccine Adverse Event Reporting System when a health care practitioner suspects an immunization caused an adverse event; and a report from the Department of Health to the General Assembly regarding the mandatory immunization of school personnel.

Multiple effective dates, beginning on July 1, 2015