

1 S.87

2 Introduced by Senators Mullin and Campbell

3 Referred to Committee on

4 Date:

5 Subject: Health; public health; communicable diseases; immunizations

6 Statement of purpose of bill as introduced: This bill proposes to remove the
7 philosophical immunization exemption.

8 An act relating to removal of the philosophical immunization exemption

9 It is hereby enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Vermont:

10 Sec. 1. 18 V.S.A. § 1122 is amended to read:

11 § 1122. EXEMPTIONS

12 (a) Notwithstanding subsections 1121(a) and (b) of this title, a person may
13 remain in school or in ~~the~~ a child care facility without a required
14 immunization:

15 (1) If the person or, in the case of a minor, the person's parent or
16 guardian presents a form created by the ~~department~~ Department and signed by
17 a licensed health care practitioner authorized to prescribe vaccines or a health
18 clinic stating that the person is in the process of being immunized. The person
19 may continue to attend school or ~~the~~ a child care facility for up to six months
20 while the immunization process is being accomplished;

1 (2) If a health care practitioner, licensed to practice in Vermont and
2 authorized to prescribe vaccines, certifies in writing that a specific
3 immunization is or may be detrimental to the person's health or is not
4 appropriate, provided that when a particular vaccine is no longer
5 contraindicated, the person shall be required to receive the vaccine; ~~or,~~

6 (3) If the person or, in the case of a minor, the person's parent or
7 guardian annually provides a signed statement to the school or child care
8 facility on a form created by the ~~Vermont department of health~~ Department
9 that the person, parent, or guardian:

10 (A) holds religious beliefs ~~or philosophical convictions~~ opposed to
11 immunization; and

12 (B) has reviewed ~~and understands~~ evidence-based educational
13 material provided by the ~~department of health~~ Department regarding
14 immunizations, including:

15 (i) information about the risks of adverse reactions to
16 immunization;

17 ~~(C)~~(ii) ~~understands~~ information that failure to complete the
18 required vaccination schedule increases risk to the person and others of
19 contracting or carrying a vaccine-preventable infectious disease; and

20 ~~(D)~~(iii) ~~understands~~ information that there are persons with special
21 health needs attending schools and child care facilities who are unable to be

1 vaccinated or who are at heightened risk of contracting a vaccine-preventable
2 communicable disease and for whom such a disease could be life-threatening.

3 * * *

4 Sec. 2. 18 V.S.A. § 1124 is amended to read:

5 § 1124. ACCESS TO AND REPORTING OF IMMUNIZATION RECORDS

6 (a) In addition to any data collected in accordance with the requirements of
7 the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the ~~Vermont department of~~
8 ~~health~~ Department shall annually collect from schools the immunization rates
9 for at least those students in the first and eighth grades for each required
10 vaccine. The data collected by the ~~department~~ Department shall include the
11 number of medical, ~~philosophical~~, and religious exemptions filed for each
12 required vaccine and the number of students with a provisional admittance.

13 * * *

14 Sec. 3. EFFECTIVE DATE

15 This act shall take effect on July 1, 2015.