



House
Legislative
Analysis
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LIMIT VAC. EXEMPTIONS

House Bills 4395 and 4396
Sponsor: Rep. Lyn Bankes
Committee: Health Policy

Complete to 7-25-95

A SUMMARY OF HOUSE BILLS 4395 and 4396 AS INTRODUCED 2-14-95

The bills would amend a provision of the Public Health Code (MCL 333.9215) and a provision of the School Code (MCL 380.1177) pertaining to exemptions from immunizations. In particular, the bills would make the following changes:

House Bill 4395. Currently, the Public Health Code allows children to be exempted from the code's immunization requirements for two reasons: (1) if a physician certifies that a specific immunization is (or may be) detrimental to the child's health or is not appropriate, or (2) a parent or guardian (or some other person in loco parentis) of the child objects, in writing, because of religious convictions or for other reasons.

The bill would eliminate the exemption for parental objections based on other than religious convictions, would require that a physician's certification be in writing, and would specify that when a physician certified that a specific immunization is not "appropriate" for a particular child it was because it was "medically" inappropriate.

House Bill 4396. Currently, the School Code requires a parent or legal guardian of a child enrolling in a public or nonpublic school for the first time to submit information in the form of a signed statement as to the immunization status of the child. A statement may be submitted to the effect that a child has not been vaccinated due to religious or other objections to immunization. The bill would delete exemptions to childhood vaccinations based on parental objections other than religious convictions.

The bill would also delete sections pertaining to the establishment of an advisory board of ophthalmologists and optometrists for the purpose of advising and assisting the director of public health with vision programs, a requirement that the administrator of each school send yearly reports of the immunization and vision screening status of each entering child to the director of the Department of Public Health, and a requirement for the Department of Public Health to promulgate rules for the implementation of this section. (Complementary provisions exist within the Public Health Code.)

House Bill 4396 is tie-barred to House Bill 4395.

House Bills 4395 and 4396 (7-25-95)