



Georgia General Assembly

03 HB 521/AP

House Bill 521 (AS PASSED HOUSE AND SENATE)

By: Representatives Porter of the 119th, Wilkinson of the 41st, McBee of the 74th, Parrish of the 102nd, Childers of the 13th, Post 1, and others

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED AN ACT

To amend Chapter 12 of Title 31 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to control of hazardous conditions, preventable diseases, and metabolic disorders, so as to require postsecondary educational institutions to provide information about meningococcal disease to certain enrolled students; to require documentation that a student has received a vaccination against meningococcal disease or has reviewed information about such disease; to provide that postsecondary educational institutions shall not be required to pay for such vaccinations; to provide postsecondary educational institutions that make a reasonable effort to comply with this Act with immunity from liability for students who contract such disease; to provide for related matters; to provide for an effective date; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

SECTION 1.

Chapter 12 of Title 31 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to control of hazardous conditions, preventable diseases, and metabolic disorders, is amended by adding following Code Section 31-12-3.1, relating to childhood vaccination registry and reporting requirements, maintenance, and use, a new Code Section 31-12-3.2 to

read as follows:

"31-12-3.2.

(a) Every public and nonpublic postsecondary educational institution shall provide to each newly admitted freshman or matriculated student residing in campus housing as defined by the postsecondary educational institution or to the student's parent or guardian if the student is a minor, the following information:

(1) Meningococcal disease is a serious disease that can lead to death within only a few hours of onset; one in ten cases is fatal; and one in seven survivors of the disease is left with a severe disability, such as the loss of a limb, mental retardation, paralysis, deafness, or seizures;

(2) Meningococcal disease is contagious but a largely preventable infection of the spinal cord fluid and the fluid that surrounds the brain;

(3) Scientific evidence suggests that college students living in dormitory facilities are at a moderately increased risk of contracting meningococcal disease; and

(4) Immunization against meningococcal disease will decrease the risk of the disease.

(b) Students who are 18 years of age or older shall be required to sign a document provided by the postsecondary educational institution stating that he or she has received a vaccination against meningococcal disease or reviewed the information provided as required by subsection (a) of this Code section. If a student is a minor, only a parent or guardian may sign such document.

(c) Nothing in this Code section shall be construed to require any postsecondary educational institution to provide or pay for vaccinations of students against meningococcal disease.

(d) Any postsecondary educational institution that has made a reasonable effort to comply with this Code section shall not be liable for damages or injuries sustained by a student by reason of such student's contracting meningococcal disease."

SECTION 2.

This Act shall become effective on January 1, 2004.

SECTION 3.

All laws and parts of laws in conflict with this Act are repealed.