SJR11
135832-2
By Senator Dial
RFD: Rules
First Read: 07-FEB-12
SJR11

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ENROLLED, SJR11,

URGING THE STATE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION AND THE
ALABAMA DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH TO ENCOURAGE ALL SCHOOLS
TO PARTICIPATE IN A SCHOOL-BASED INFLUENZA VACCINATION
PROGRAM.

WHEREAS, the Alabama Legislature finds as follows:

(1) Influenza is a contagious respiratory illness
caused by influenza viruses, and the best way to help prevent
seasonal influenza is by being vaccinated each year.

(2) Every year in the United States, on average,
more than 200,000 people are hospitalized from
influenza-related complications and about 36,000 people,
mostly elderly, die from influenza-related causes.

(3) The Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices
of the United States Centers for Disease Control and
Prevention (ACIP) recommended, effective July 1, 2008, routine
seasonal influenza vaccination for all children ages six
months to 18 years, inclusive.

(4) Children and young adults ages five years to 19
years, inclusive, are three to four times more likely to be
infected with influenza than adults.
(5) School-aged children are the population group most responsible for the transmission of contagious respiratory viruses, including influenza.

(6) The elderly are the most vulnerable population to suffer severe illness from influenza due to weaker immune response to vaccination.

(7) School-based vaccination programs may be an effective way to vaccinate children while reducing transmission and infection rates to the larger community and reducing rates of school absenteeism due to children being infected with influenza.

(8) Increased focus on providing influenza vaccine to children targeted for immunization may assist efforts to build a sound foundation for future vaccination efforts.

(9) Schools may be an effective infrastructure tool to improve pandemic planning by identifying known and effective pandemic vaccination centers.

(10) School-based programs may help facilitate mass immunization clinics and build partnerships with local public health teams in the event of a public health emergency, such as a pandemic.

(11) Although experience has demonstrated the feasibility and success of school-based influenza vaccination programs in vaccinating children, funding and logistical issues, particularly involving the delivery of vaccine to
children with private insurance coverage, are issues with program sustainability; now therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA, BOTH HOUSES THEREOF CONCOURRING, That the State Department of Education, in consultation with the Alabama Department of Public Health, strongly encourage all public K-12 schools to participate in a school-based influenza vaccination program with all of the following attributes:

(1) The program shall be run entirely by health care providers or community immunizers, or both.

   a. Health care providers and community immunizers shall be responsible for ordering vaccine for children (VFC) influenza vaccine through the Alabama Department of Public Health and for purchasing non-VFC influenza vaccine from manufacturers.

   b. Health care providers and community immunizers shall be responsible for acquiring insurance information and making application for the administration of the vaccine to the appropriate public or private insurer. Reimbursement to providers shall be determined under the terms and conditions of each individual's insurance benefit plan.

   c. No child, regardless of insurance, shall be refused a vaccine.

(2) The program shall be designed to administer influenza vaccine consistent with the recommendations of the
ACIP for the annual vaccination of school-aged children ages five years to 19 years, inclusive.

(3) The program may be implemented by any willing provider with the ability to order and administer both VFC and non-VFC influenza vaccines in accordance with Alabama law.

(4) Only federal Food and Drug Administration approved influenza vaccines may be used in the program.

(5) Individual student participation shall be voluntary and the vaccine shall only be administered to a student with the written consent of the parent or legal guardian of the student.

(6) Information on the school-based influenza program and a consent for vaccination form shall be included by each participating local board of education in the applicable Student/Parent Information Guide provided to each student at the beginning of each school year.

(7) The program may not restrict the discretion of a health care provider or community immunizer, or both, to administer seasonal influenza vaccine approved by the federal Food and Drug Administration for use in pediatric populations.

(8) Influenza vaccination shall be offered to all children as soon as the vaccine becomes available, before the start of the influenza season, and shall continue to be offered throughout the entire influenza season.
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Kay Ivey
President and Presiding Officer of the Senate

Speaker of the House of Representatives

SJR11
Senate 14-FEB-12
I hereby certify that the within Act originated in and adopted the Senate.

Patrick Harris
Secretary

House of Representatives
Amended and adopted 22-MAR-12

Senate concurred in House amendment 03-APR-12

By: Senator Dial

APPROVED April 10, 2012
Time 11:30 am

Robert Bentley
GOVERNOR

Alabama Secretary Of State
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REPORT OF RULES COMMITTEE

This bill, having been referred to the Committee on Rules, was taken up by the Committee in session. It was referred to the House with the recommendation that it be adopted.

[Signature]  Chairman