

2016 -- H 7476

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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2016

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A N A C T

RELATING TO HEALTH AND SAFETY - DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

Introduced By: Representatives Price, Shekarchi, Roberts, Chippendale, and Filippi

Date Introduced: February 04, 2016

Referred To: House Health, Education & Welfare

It is enacted by the General Assembly as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Section 23-1-44 of the General Laws in Chapter 23-1 entitled "Department
2 of Health" is hereby amended to read as follows:

3 **23-1-44. Routine childhood and adult immunization vaccines.** -- (a) The department
4 of health shall include in the department's immunization program those vaccines for routine
5 childhood immunization as recommended by the Advisory Committee for Immunization
6 Practices (ACIP) and the Academy of Pediatrics (AAP), and for adult influenza immunization as
7 recommended by the ACIP, to the extent permitted by available funds. The childhood
8 immunization program includes administrative and quality assurance services and KIDSNET, a
9 confidential, computerized child health information system that is used to manage statewide
10 immunizations, as well as other public health preventive services, for all children in Rhode Island
11 from birth through age 18.

12 (b) The director of the department of health shall appoint an advisory committee that will
13 be convened after the ACIP makes a recommendation regarding adult immunization. The
14 committee will review the ACIP recommendations for the state, assess the vaccine cost and
15 feasibility, and advise the director of health and the office of the health insurance commissioner
16 regarding insurers and providers acting on the ACIP adult immunization recommendation. All
17 recommendations will be posted on the department of health website. The advisory committee
18 membership shall include, but not be limited to, a primary care provider, pharmacist,
19 representatives of the nursing home industry, the home health care industry and major insurers.

1 (c) Notwithstanding the exemption set forth in §23-1-27, the department of health shall
2 conduct a hearing, in accordance with the procedures set forth in chapter 35 of title 42, prior to
3 issuing a mandate requiring immunization from any disease, unless it has been determined that a
4 voluntary mass immunization program is necessary to protect the health and welfare of the people
5 pursuant to §23-8-2.

6 SECTION 2. This act shall take effect upon passage.

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EXPLANATION
BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL
OF

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RELATING TO HEALTH AND SAFETY - DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

- 1 This act would require the director of the department of health to conduct a hearing prior
- 2 to requiring immunization against any disease unless there exists a health emergency.
- 3 This act would take effect upon passage.

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