

HOUSE BILL 247

By Lynn

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 49, Chapter 6, Part 50; Title 56, Chapter 7 and Title 71, Chapter 3, Part 5, relative to immunizations.

WHEREAS, the state of Tennessee recognizes the importance of pneumococcal conjugate vaccine for children enrolled or enrolling in childcare programs; and

WHEREAS, the Tennessee Department of Health acknowledges that vaccines, including pneumococcal conjugate vaccine, focus on disease prevention and are the most cost effective medical intervention; and

WHEREAS, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, through the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP), recommends that children are administered age-appropriate four-dose series of pneumococcal conjugate vaccine; and

WHEREAS, pneumococcal conjugate vaccine, which is licensed by the United States Food and Drug Administration (FDA), is effective in preventing invasive pneumococcal disease; and

WHEREAS, a recent study published in the Journal of the American Medical Association reveals that pneumococcal conjugate vaccine, when administered to children, has significantly reduced the number of invasive pneumococcal disease cases and deaths in the adult population; now, therefore,

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE:

SECTION 1. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 49-6-5001, is amended by adding the following language at the end of subsection (a):

The commissioner of health shall promulgate rules to include, in its immunization requirements, evidence of vaccination against pneumococcal disease for all children entering a child care facility.

SECTION 2. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 49-6-5001, is further amended by adding the following language as a new subsection (f) and by designating subsequent subsections accordingly:

(f) Beginning October 1, 2009, a child enrolled or enrolling in a child care facility who has not yet attained the age of twenty-four (24) months shall be vaccinated for age appropriate series of pneumococcal conjugate vaccine, as recommended by the Center for Disease Control and Prevention's Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices. The department of health shall implement rules to add pneumococcal conjugate vaccine to the current list of required vaccines, and shall establish protocols for children under the age of twenty-four (24) months to catch up on missed doses. Child care facilities shall be able to furnish proof to the department of health of pneumococcal conjugate vaccine compliance for all children in a facility by January 1, 2010. If, pursuant to subsection (a), the department of health immunization program adopts regulations before January 1, 2010, that would otherwise meet the requirements of this subsection, then this subsection shall be repealed on January 1, 2010.

SECTION 3. This act shall take effect upon becoming a law, the public welfare requiring it.