

BILL ANALYSIS

Senate Research Center

S.B. 1583
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Education
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As Filed

AUTHOR'S/SPONSOR'S STATEMENT OF INTENT

To enroll in school in Texas, a student must be immunized and the immunization record must be placed on file with the school district. Many children do not have their immunizations updated promptly simply because they and their parents are not aware that this needs to be done. Children who are not vaccinated pose a health risk not only to themselves, but also to other children attending school with them.

If a child is removed from school or denied access to the school because the child's immunizations are not current, the child misses out on an educational opportunity during the absence from school. When the child returns to school after obtaining current immunizations, he or she is behind in the coursework and as a result may slow down the rest of the children in learning.

As proposed, S.B. 1583 requires that, before students are released for summer vacation, school nurses or other administrative officials present every student with a sheet indicating whether the student's immunizations are up to date. In addition, the name and contact information of a local clinic where the student can receive the necessary immunizations will be provided. The sheet may also contain additional information about the importance of regular immunizations as well as a list of available vaccines and the diseases they prevent.

RULEMAKING AUTHORITY

This bill does not expressly grant any additional rulemaking authority to a state officer, institution, or agency.

SECTION BY SECTION ANALYSIS

SECTION 1. Amends Subchapter A, Chapter 38, Education Code, by adding Section 38.0011, as follows:

Sec. 38.0011. NOTIFICATION OF IMMUNIZATION STATUS. (a) Requires a school district, at the conclusion of each school year, to provide written notification to the parent or guardian of each student, other than students who the district determines have completed all requirements for graduation, that provides certain information regarding immunizations.

(b) Authorizes the notification to also provide additional information regarding the importance of immunization and the availability of specific immunizations.

SECTION 2. Makes application of this Act prospective to the 2005-2006 school year.

SECTION 3. Effective date: upon passage or September 1, 2005.