

By: Cospers

H.B. No. 2419

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

1  
2 relating to an exemption for current and former members of the armed  
3 services from the requirement that an incoming student at a public  
4 or private or independent institution of higher education show  
5 proof of vaccination against bacterial meningitis.

6 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

7 SECTION 1. Section 51.9192, Education Code, is amended by  
8 amending Subsection (c) and adding Subsections (d-7) and (d-8) to  
9 read as follows:

10 (c) Except as provided by Subsection (d) or (d-7), a student  
11 to whom this section applies or a parent or guardian of the student  
12 must provide to the institution, at the time and in the manner  
13 prescribed by rules adopted by the Texas Higher Education  
14 Coordinating Board, a certificate signed by a health practitioner  
15 or an official immunization record evidencing that the student has  
16 received a bacterial meningitis vaccination dose or booster during  
17 the five-year period preceding the date established by the  
18 coordinating board under Subsection (e).

19 (d-7) A student to whom this section applies is not required  
20 to comply with Subsection (c) if the student submits to the  
21 appropriate admitting official of the institution, at the time and  
22 in the manner prescribed by rules adopted by the Texas Higher  
23 Education Coordinating Board:

24 (1) an affidavit confirming the student's current or

1 former service as a member of the armed forces of the United States;

2 or

3 (2) the student's valid military identification card.

4 (d-8) An institution of higher education or private or

5 independent institution of higher education may develop and

6 implement a secure, Internet-based process to be used for an

7 entering student to submit the information described by Subsection

8 (d-7) online.

9 SECTION 2. The Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board  
10 shall adopt the rules required by Section 51.9192(d-7), Education  
11 Code, as added by this Act, as soon as practicable following the  
12 effective date of this Act.

13 SECTION 3. The change in law made by this Act applies  
14 beginning with entering students enrolling in public or private or  
15 independent institutions of higher education in this state on or  
16 after January 1, 2018.

17 SECTION 4. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives  
18 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as  
19 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this  
20 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this  
21 Act takes effect September 1, 2017.