

By: Hull, McQueeney, Bonnen, Leach,
Capriglione, et al.

H.B. No. 1586

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to an exemption from required immunizations for school enrollment.

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

SECTION 1. Sections 161.0041(c), (d), and (e), Health and Safety Code, are amended to read as follows:

(c) The department shall develop a blank affidavit form for a person to use in claiming an exemption from a required immunization under this section and post the affidavit form in a printable format on the department's Internet website. A person claiming an exemption from a required immunization ~~[under this section]~~ may also ~~[only]~~ obtain the affidavit form by submitting a written request for the affidavit form to the department. A person may not be required to provide any information to obtain a blank affidavit form under this subsection.

(d) ~~[The department shall develop a blank affidavit form that contains a seal or other security device to prevent reproduction of the form.]~~ The affidavit form shall contain a statement indicating that the person or, if a minor, the person's parent, managing conservator, or guardian understands the benefits and risks of immunizations and the benefits and risks of not being immunized.

(e) The department may ~~[shall]~~ maintain a record of the total number of times an affidavit form was accessed on the

1 department's Internet website or requested under Subsection (c)
2 ~~[forms sent out each year and shall report that information to the~~
3 ~~legislature each year]~~. The department may not maintain a record of
4 any personally identifying information ~~[the names]~~ of individuals
5 who download, access, request, or submit an affidavit form under
6 this section.

7 SECTION 2. Not later than the 30th day after the effective
8 date of this Act, the Department of State Health Services shall
9 modify the existing affidavit form required by Section 161.0041,
10 Health and Safety Code, as amended by this Act.

11 SECTION 3. This Act applies beginning with the 2025-2026
12 school year.

13 SECTION 4. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives
14 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as
15 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this
16 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this
17 Act takes effect September 1, 2025.