

# **WEST VIRGINIA LEGISLATURE**

## **2021 REGULAR SESSION**

**Introduced**

### **House Bill 2881**

BY DELEGATES STEELE AND SYPOLT

[Introduced March 03, 2021; Referred to the  
Committee on Health and Human Resources then  
Education]

1 A BILL to amend and reenact §16-3-4 of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, relating  
2 to removing Hepatitis B vaccine from the list of from compulsory immunizations.

*Be it enacted by the Legislature of West Virginia:*

**ARTICLE 3. PREVENTION AND CONTROL OF COMMUNICABLE AND OTHER INFECTIOUS  
DISEASES.**

**§16-3-4. Compulsory immunization of school children; information disseminated;  
offenses; penalties.**

1 (a) Whenever a resident birth occurs, the commissioner shall promptly provide parents of  
2 the newborn child with information on immunizations mandated by this state or required for  
3 admission to a public, private, and parochial school in this state or a state-regulated child care  
4 center.

5 (b) Except as hereinafter provided, a child entering school or a state-regulated child care  
6 center in this state ~~must~~ shall be immunized against chickenpox, ~~hepatitis-b~~, measles, meningitis,  
7 mumps, diphtheria, polio, rubella, tetanus, and whooping cough.

8 (c) No child or person may be admitted or received in any of the schools of the state or a  
9 state-regulated child care center until he or she has been immunized against chickenpox,  
10 ~~hepatitis-b~~, measles, meningitis, mumps, diphtheria, polio, rubella, tetanus, and whooping cough  
11 or produces a certificate from the commissioner granting the child or person an exemption from  
12 the compulsory immunization requirements of this section.

13 (d) Any school or state-regulated child care center personnel having information  
14 concerning any person who attempts to be enrolled in a school or state-regulated child care center  
15 without having been immunized against chickenpox, ~~hepatitis-b~~ measles, meningitis, mumps,  
16 diphtheria, polio, rubella, tetanus, and whooping cough shall report the names of all such persons  
17 to the commissioner.

18 (e) Persons may be provisionally enrolled under minimum criteria established by the  
19 commissioner so that the person's immunization may be completed while missing a minimum

20 amount of school. No person ~~shall~~ may be allowed to enter school without at least one dose of  
21 each required vaccine.

22 (f) County health departments shall furnish the biologicals for this immunization for  
23 children of parents or guardians who attest that they cannot afford or otherwise access vaccines  
24 elsewhere.

25 (g) Health officers and physicians who provide vaccinations ~~must~~ shall present the person  
26 vaccinated with a certificate free of charge showing that they have been immunized against  
27 chickenpox, hepatitis-b, measles, meningitis, mumps, diphtheria, polio, rubella, tetanus and  
28 whooping cough, or he or she may give the certificate to any person or child whom he or she  
29 knows to have been immunized against chickenpox, hepatitis-b, measles, meningitis, mumps,  
30 diphtheria, polio, rubella, tetanus and whooping cough.

31 (h) The commissioner ~~is authorized to~~ may grant, renew, condition, deny, suspend, or  
32 revoke exemptions to the compulsory immunization requirements of this section, on a statewide  
33 basis, upon sufficient medical evidence that immunization is contraindicated or there exists a  
34 specific precaution to a particular vaccine.

35 (1) A request for an exemption to the compulsory immunization requirements of this  
36 section ~~must~~ shall be accompanied by the certification of a licensed physician stating that the  
37 physical condition of the child is such that immunization is contraindicated or there exists a specific  
38 precaution to a particular vaccine.

39 (2) The commissioner is authorized to appoint and employ an Immunization Officer to  
40 make determinations on request for an exemption to the compulsory immunization requirements  
41 of this section, on a statewide basis, and delegate to the Immunization Officer the authority  
42 granted to the commissioner by this subsection.

43 (3) A person appointed and employed as the Immunization Officer ~~must~~ shall be a  
44 physician licensed under the laws of this state to practice medicine.

45 (4) The Immunization Officer's decision on a request for an exemption to the compulsory

46 immunization requirements of this section may be appealed to the State Health Officer.

47 (5) The final determination of the State Health Officer is subject to a right of appeal  
48 pursuant to ~~the provisions of~~ §29A-5-1 *et seq.* of this code.

49 (i) A physician who provides any person with a false certificate of immunization against  
50 chickenpox, hepatitis-b, measles, meningitis, mumps, diphtheria, polio,<sup>7</sup> rubella, tetanus and  
51 whooping cough is guilty of a misdemeanor and, upon conviction, shall be fined not less than \$25  
52 nor more than \$100.

NOTE: The purpose of this bill is to remove the hepatitis B vaccine from the vaccines mandated by this state or required for admission to a public, private, and parochial school in this state or a state-regulated child care center.

Strike-throughs indicate language that would be stricken from a heading or the present law, and underscoring indicates new language that would be added.