

WEST VIRGINIA LEGISLATURE

2026 REGULAR SESSION

Introduced

Senate Bill 609

By Senator Rucker

[Introduced January 27, 2026; referred

to the Committee on Health and Human Resources]

1 A BILL to amend the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, by adding a new section,
2 designated §18B-1-12, relating to exempting students of higher education from
3 compulsory vaccination requirements.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of West Virginia:

ARTICLE

1.

GOVERNANCE.

§18B-1-12. Rights of students to exemptions from compulsory immunizations.

1 A student shall be exempt from a college, university, or vocational technical school's
2 compulsory immunizations upon the presentation to the student's school of a certification signed
3 by the student if he or she is 18 years of age or older or the student's parent or legal guardian
4 stating that they object to immunization based on sincerely held religious beliefs.

NOTE: The purpose of this bill is to exempt students at college, universities, and vocational and technical schools from any compulsory immunization requirements.

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