
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE BILL

No. 883 Session of
2015

INTRODUCED BY CORBIN, SCHLOSSBERG, DAVIS, SNYDER, FREEMAN,
SAMUELSON, BAKER, THOMAS, McNEILL, D. COSTA, SCHWEYER, MOUL,
STURLA, ROSS, COHEN, HENNESSEY, FRANKEL, BISHOP, DeLUCA,
FABRIZIO, SIMS, SANTARSIERO AND ACOSTA, APRIL 6, 2015

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON HEALTH, APRIL 6, 2015

AN ACT

1 Amending the act of March 10, 1949 (P.L.30, No.14), entitled "An
2 act relating to the public school system, including certain
3 provisions applicable as well to private and parochial
4 schools; amending, revising, consolidating and changing the
5 laws relating thereto," in pupils and attendance, further
6 providing for immunization required and penalty; and
7 abrogating a regulation relating to responsibilities of
8 schools and school administrators.

9 The General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania
10 hereby enacts as follows:

11 Section 1. Section 1303(c) and (d) of the act of March 10,
12 1949 (P.L.30, No.14), known as the Public School Code of 1949,
13 added April 11, 1974 (P.L.258, No.67), are amended and the
14 section is amended by adding a subsection to read:

15 Section 1303. Immunization Required; Penalty.--* * *

16 (c) The provisions of this section shall not apply in the
17 case of any child deemed to have a medical contraindication
18 which may contraindicate immunization and so certified by a
19 [physician] health care practitioner. Such certificates may be
20 accepted in lieu of a certificate of immunization.

1 (d) The provisions of this section shall not apply in the
2 case of any child whose parent or guardian [objects in writing
3 to such immunization on religious grounds.] has a strongly held
4 religious belief that the child should not be subject to
5 required immunizations as provided in this section. To apply for
6 the exemption, the parent or guardian shall execute an
7 affidavit. The affidavit shall include a list of required
8 immunizations and allow a parent or guardian to request an
9 exemption for the child from any or all of the required
10 immunizations. In the affidavit the parent or guardian shall
11 state that a religious belief of the parent or guardian is in
12 conflict with the child receiving immunizations required by this
13 section and shall indicate the specific vaccines for which an
14 exemption is being requested. The affidavit must be signed by a
15 health care practitioner. The signature of the health care
16 practitioner indicates that the parent or guardian has been
17 given information regarding the benefits of vaccination and the
18 risks associated with not vaccinating have been explained to the
19 parent or guardian. The date on which the information was
20 provided shall be included on the affidavit. The affidavit may
21 be accepted in lieu of a certificate of immunization. For the
22 purposes of this subsection, a religious belief shall not
23 include a strong moral or ethical conviction similar to a
24 religious belief.

25 (e) As used in this section, the term "health care
26 practitioner" shall mean a person who is licensed, certified or
27 otherwise authorized by law or regulation to administer
28 immunizations in this Commonwealth.

29 Section 2. The regulation of the Department of Health in 28
30 Pa. Code § 23.85(e) (relating to responsibilities of schools and

1 school administrators) is abrogated.

2 Section 3. This act shall take effect in 60 days.