



# House of Representatives

General Assembly

**File No. 412**

*January Session, 2001*

Substitute House Bill No. 5675

*House of Representatives, April 23, 2001*

The Committee on Public Health reported through REP. EBERLE of the 15th Dist., Chairperson of the Committee on the part of the House, that the substitute bill ought to pass.

## **AN ACT CONCERNING MENINGITIS INFORMATION AND VACCINATIONS FOR COLLEGE STUDENTS.**

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1       (NEW) (a) For the 2001-2002 school year, and each school year  
2 thereafter, each public or private college or university in this state shall  
3 require that each student who resides in on-campus housing be  
4 vaccinated against meningitis as a condition of such residence. The  
5 provisions of this subsection shall not apply to any such student who  
6 (1) presents a certificate from a physician stating that, in the opinion of  
7 such physician, such vaccination is medically contraindicated because  
8 of the physical condition of such student, or (2) presents a statement  
9 that such vaccination would be contrary to the religious beliefs of such  
10 student.

11       (b) For the 2001-2002 school year, and each school year thereafter,  
12 each public or private college or university in this state shall (1)  
13 provide information about meningitis to all prospective students prior

14 to their matriculation and include with that information notice of the  
15 availability and benefits of a meningitis vaccine, and (2) develop  
16 procedures for facilitating, receiving and recording student responses  
17 to the information provided about meningitis and the meningitis  
18 vaccination, including the student's decision to receive the vaccination.

**PH**      *Joint Favorable Subst.*

The following fiscal impact statement and bill analysis are prepared for the benefit of members of the General Assembly, solely for the purpose of information, summarization, and explanation, and do not represent the intent of the General Assembly or either House thereof for any purpose:

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**OFA Fiscal Note**

**State Impact:** Minimal Impact

**Affected Agencies:** University of Connecticut, Connecticut State University

**Municipal Impact:** None

**Explanation**

**State Impact:**

Assuming that state institutions of higher education, both private and public, are NOT responsible for providing any vaccinations, passage of the bill would result in a minimal fiscal impact to the agencies that could be absorbed within currently available resources. The impact is primarily related to the enforcement of the requirement for vaccination, any necessary record keeping and the distribution of information regarding meningitis. There are over 6,300 on-campus residents within the Connecticut State University System and approximately 9,000 for the University of Connecticut.

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**OLR BILL ANALYSIS**

sHB 5675

**AN ACT CONCERNING MENINGITIS INFORMATION AND VACCINATIONS FOR COLLEGE STUDENTS.**

**SUMMARY:**

Beginning with the 2001-2002 academic year, this bill requires all public and private colleges and universities in the state to require all students who live in on-campus residence halls to be vaccinated against meningitis, with two exceptions (see COMMENT). These are if (1) a doctor certifies that a student's physical condition contraindicates vaccination or (2) a student presents a statement that vaccination is against his religious beliefs.

The bill also requires each public and private college and university to (1) inform all its prospective students before they matriculate about meningitis and the availability and benefits of the vaccine and (2) develop procedures for recording students' responses to the information and their decision about vaccination.

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 2001

**BACKGROUND**

***Meningitis***

There are two types of meningitis, bacterial and viral. The bacterial form can be severe and result in brain damage. The federal Centers for Disease Control has found college freshmen who live in dormitories to be at a moderately increased risk of meningitis relative to other people their age. It recommends that (1) medical providers inform students and their parents about meningococcal disease and the benefits of vaccination and (2) vaccinations be provided or made easily available to those freshmen who wish to reduce their risk of disease.

**COMMENT**

***Effective Date***

The bill requires students to be vaccinated against meningitis for the 2001-02 school year, which begins before the bill's October 1, 2001 effective date.

**COMMITTEE ACTION**

Public Health Committee

Joint Favorable Substitute  
Yea 25 Nay 0