
Health Care & Wellness Committee

SB 5143

Brief Description: Concerning the availability of childhood immunization resources for expecting parents.

Sponsors: Senators Becker, Bailey, Dammeier, Rivers, Frockt, Brown and Parlette.

Brief Summary of Bill

- Requires the Department of Health to develop and make available resources for expecting parents regarding childhood immunizations.

Hearing Date: 2/19/16

Staff: Jim Morishima (786-7191).

Background:

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recommends that children be immunized against chickenpox, diphtheria, haemophilus influenzae type b, hepatitis A and B, influenza, measles, mumps, pertussis, polio, pneumococcal, rotavirus, rubella, and tetanus. The CDC immunization schedule recommends that specific vaccines be given to a child at birth and at 2, 4, 6, 12, and 15 months of age.

A child may not attend a school or a licensed day care center unless one of the following is presented before the first day: (1) proof of full immunization; (2) proof of the initiation and compliance with a schedule of immunization; or (3) a certificate of exemption. Full immunization includes vaccines for chickenpox, diphtheria, German measles, haemophilus influenzae type B disease, hepatitis B, measles, mumps, pneumococcal disease, polio, tetanus, and whooping cough.

The Department of Health (DOH) publishes materials related to childhood immunizations on its website, including an electronic book, frequently asked questions, and web pages specific to

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particular vaccines and vaccine-preventable diseases. The materials cover topics such as vaccine-preventable diseases, how vaccines work, vaccine ingredients, and vaccine safety.

Summary of Bill:

The DOH must develop and make available resources for expecting parents regarding recommended childhood immunizations. The resources are intended to be provided to expecting parents by health care providers to encourage discussion of childhood immunizations and postnatal care.

Appropriation: None.

Fiscal Note: Available.

Effective Date: The bill takes effect 90 days after adjournment of the session in which the bill is passed.