

"AN ACT TO REQUIRE THAT CERTAIN PERSONS ENROLLED IN PUBLIC AND PRIVATE COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES IN THE STATE OF ARKANSAS FURNISH PROOF THAT THEY HAVE IMMUNITY AGAINST MEASLES, RUBELLA, AND SUCH OTHER DISEASES AS DETERMINED BY THE STATE BOARD OF HEALTH; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES."

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:

SECTION 1. PURPOSE.

Immunizations against measles, rubella, and other communicable diseases have resulted in a dramatic decrease in the incidence of these diseases in this country. However, these diseases continue to occur on campuses of American colleges and universities, and a more intensified effort is needed to prevent and control these diseases. A requirement that certain college and university enrollees furnish proof that they have immunity against certain communicable diseases will alleviate the potential for an outbreak of such diseases. The purpose of this legislation is to assure that certain enrollees of public and private colleges and universities in Arkansas, prior to attendance, furnish proof of immunity against measles, rubella, and such other diseases designated by the State Board of Health.

SECTION 2. IMMUNIZATION REQUIREMENTS FOR ALL ENROLLEES AT PUBLIC AND PRIVATE COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES.

No part-time student housed in on-campus premises and no full-time student may attend a public or private college or university in this State unless he or she has furnished proof, within such time as set by the college or university, but not to exceed 30 calendar days after enrollment, by way of an official record from another educational institution in Arkansas, or a certificate from a licensed medical doctor or an authorized public health department representative that he or she has immunity against measles, rubella, and such other diseases as delineated by the Arkansas State Board of Health.

SECTION 3. RESPONSIBILITY AND REGULATIONS

The State Board of Health is empowered to promulgate rules and regulations for the proper enforcement of the provisions of this Act, including, but not limited to, the authority to examine records and conduct investigations to assure compliance. The responsibility for the enforcement of these requirements rests with the directors of admissions or registration at each college or university.

SECTION 4. EXEMPTIONS

A. Physical Disability. If, at the discretion of a medical doctor licensed to practice in Arkansas, an individual is deemed to have a physical disability which may contra-indicate one or more of the vaccinations required by this Act, a certificate approved by the Arkansas Department of Health and signed by such medical doctor may be accepted in lieu of proof of vaccination.

B. Religious Exemption. The provisions of this Act shall not apply if the individual furnishes to the college or university written proof from a church or denomination official that such immunization conflicts with the religious tenets and practices of such recognized church or religious denomination of which said individual is an adherent or member.

SECTION 5. REPEAL OF CONFLICT LAWS.

Those laws or parts of laws in conflict herewith are hereby repealed.

SECTION 6. SEVERABILITY.

If for any reason any section or provision of this Act shall be held to be unconstitutional, or invalid for other reason, it shall not affect the remainder of this Act.

APPROVED: 3/9/87

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