

ARKANSAS SENATE
86th General Assembly - Regular Session, 2007
Amendment Form

Subtitle of Senate Bill No. 911

"PROHIBIT OR REDUCE THE AMOUNT OF MERCURY IN CHILDHOOD VACCINES."

Amendment No. 1 to Senate Bill No. 911.

Amend Senate Bill No. 911 as originally introduced:

Delete everything after the ENACTING clause and substitute the following:

"SECTION 1. Arkansas Code Title 20, Chapter 27, Subchapter 1 is amended to add an additional section to read as follows:

20-7-136. Reduction of mercury in childhood vaccines.

(a) The General Assembly finds that:

(1) Mercury is a toxic substance that can cause damage to nerve and brain tissue;

(2) A mercury derived preservative known as thimerosal has been used in the vaccine manufacturing process since the late 1920s, predating the creation of the federal Food and Drug Administration;

(3) Since the late 1980s, the number of vaccines given to American children has expanded while the age at which vaccinations are administered has been lowered;

(4) The American Academy of Pediatrics and the United States Public Health Service recommended in 1999 that mercury be removed as soon as possible from all vaccines because of the potential for neurological damage posed by mercury;

(5) Most vaccines recommended for use in children are now mercury-free, with the exception of the flu shot;

(6) Administering the standard flu shot to a child three (3) years of age or younger results in mercury exposure levels far in excess of maximum adult exposure limits set the federal Food and Drug Administration;

(7) Public concern about the presence of mercury in vaccines is undermining the effectiveness of immunization programs that protect the public health; and

(8) Eliminating the mercury in vaccines would minimize public fear, increase public confidence in the safety of the vaccine supply and serve to protect children from the potential negative impacts of mercury exposure.

(b) After the effective date of this act, no person who is eight (8) years of age or younger shall be vaccinated in this state with a vaccine containing more than five-tenths microgram (0.5 mg) of mercury in any form per five-tenths milliliter (0.5 ml) dose of vaccine.



(c)(1) The Division of Health of the Department of Health and Human Services shall promulgate rules to implement the requirements of this section.

(2) The rules may include exceptions for potential bioterrorist incidents or for actual or potential public health emergencies."

The Amendment was read the first time, rules suspended and read the second time and _____

By: Senator Baker

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Secretary