

State of Arkansas
76th General Assembly
Regular Session, 1987
By: Representative Matthews

HOUSE BILL 1320

"AN ACT TO REQUIRE THAT ALL PERSONS ENROLLED IN THE PUBLIC AND PRIVATE COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES IN THE STATE OF ARKANSAS FURNISH PROOF THAT THEY HAVE BEEN IMMUNIZED 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 all college and university enrollees furnish proof that they have been immunized against certain communicable diseases will alleviate the potential for an outbreak of such diseases. The purpose of this legislation is to assure that all enrollees of public and private colleges and universities in Arkansas, prior to attendance, furnish proof that they have received immunizations 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 person may be allowed to attend a public or private college or university in this State unless he or she has furnished proof, by way of a certificate from a licensed physician or public health department that he or she has been immunized 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 person in charge of admissions at each college or university.

SECTION 4. EXEMPTIONS. (A) Physical Disability. If, at the discretion of the director of the Arkansas Department of Health, an individual is deemed to have a physical disability which may contraindicate one or more of the vaccinations, a certificate to that effect issued by the Arkansas Department of Health may be accepted in lieu of proof of vaccination.

(B) Religious Exemption. The provisions of this Act shall not apply if the individual objects thereto on the grounds that such immunization conflicts with the religious tenets and practices of a recognized church or religious denomination of which said individual is an adherent or member.

SECTION 5. REPEAL OF CONFLICTING LAWS. All 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.

