

HOUSE BILL 264

By Richey

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 8;
Title 14; Title 36, Chapter 1, Part 1; Title 37; Title
49; Title 50 and Title 68, relative to immunizations.

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

SECTION 1. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 37-10-402, is amended by deleting the section and substituting:

This section does not apply to a child whose parent or guardian files with proper authorities a signed, written statement that such immunization and other preventative measures conflict with the religious tenets and practices of the parent or guardian affirmed under penalty of perjury. If a person files a statement of religious objection to immunization under this section, no form of proof of the person's religious conviction beyond the signed, written statement is required.

SECTION 2. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 49-6-5001(b)(2), is amended by deleting the subdivision and substituting:

(2) Except as provided in subdivision (b)(3), this section does not apply to a child whose parent or guardian files with school authorities a signed, written statement that the immunization and other preventative measures conflict with the parent's or guardian's religious tenets and practices, affirmed under penalty of perjury. If a person files a statement of religious objection to immunization under this section, no form of proof of the person's religious conviction beyond the signed, written statement is required.

SECTION 3. Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 8, Chapter 50, Part 1, is amended by adding the following as a new section:

(a) As used in this section, "governmental entity" means this state or a political subdivision of this state.

(b) A governmental entity shall not mandate that a person receive an immunization unless the governmental entity provides an exemption to a person who files with the governmental entity a signed, written statement that the immunization conflicts with the person's religious tenets and practices, affirmed under penalty of perjury.

(c) If a person files a statement of religious objection to immunization under subsection (b), then a governmental entity shall not require any form of proof of the person's religious conviction beyond the signed, written statement.

SECTION 4. This act takes effect upon becoming a law, the public welfare requiring it.