

House Bill 521

By: Representatives Porter of the 119th, Wilkinson of the 41st, McBee of the 74th, Parrish of the 102nd, Childers of the 13th, Post 1, and others

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT

1 To amend Article 1 of Chapter 3 of Title 20 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated,
2 relating to definitions related to postsecondary education, so as to require postsecondary
3 educational institutions to provide information about meningococcal meningitis to enrolled
4 students; to require documentation that a student has received and reviewed information
5 about meningococcal meningitis and has chosen not to be vaccinated; to provide that
6 postsecondary educational institutions shall not be required to pay for such vaccinations; to
7 provide for related matters; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

8 **BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:**

9 **SECTION 1.**

10 Article 1 of Chapter 3 of Title 20 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to
11 definitions related to postsecondary education, is amended by adding a new Code Section
12 20-3-2 to read as follows:

13 "20-3-2.

14 (a) Every public and nonpublic postsecondary educational institution shall provide to each
15 student accepted for admission or to the student's parent or guardian if the student is a
16 minor, the following information:

17 (1) Meningococcal meningitis is a serious disease that can lead to death within only a
18 few hours of onset; one in ten cases is fatal; and one in seven survivors of the disease is
19 left with a severe handicap, such as the loss of a limb, mental retardation, paralysis,
20 deafness, or seizures;

21 (2) Meningococcal meningitis is highly contagious but a largely preventable infection
22 of the spinal cord fluid and the fluid that surrounds the brain;

23 (3) Individuals of any age can carry the disease for days, weeks, months unknowingly
24 or without becoming ill, and, at any time, from 10 to 25 percent of the population carries
25 the disease;

1 (4) College students living in dormitory facilities are six times more likely than other
2 individuals to contract meningococcal meningitis; and

3 (5) Vaccination against meningococcal meningitis will decrease the risk of the disease.

4 (b) Students who are 18 years of age or older shall be required to sign a document
5 provided by the postsecondary educational institution stating that he or she has received
6 and reviewed the information provided as required by subsection (a) of this Code section
7 and has chosen not to be vaccinated against meningococcal meningitis. If a student is a
8 minor, only a parent or guardian may sign such document.

9 (c) Nothing in this Code section shall be construed to require any postsecondary
10 educational institution to provide or pay for vaccinations of students against meningococcal
11 meningitis."

12 **SECTION 2.**

13 All laws and parts of laws in conflict with this Act are repealed.