

The House Committee on Higher Education offers the following substitute to HB 521:

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT

1 To amend Chapter 12 of Title 31 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to
2 control of hazardous conditions, so as to require postsecondary educational institutions to
3 provide information about meningococcal disease to enrolled students; to require
4 documentation that a student has received and reviewed information about meningococcal
5 disease; to provide that postsecondary educational institutions shall not be required to pay
6 for such vaccinations; to provide for related matters; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other
7 purposes.

8 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

9 **SECTION 1.**

10 Chapter 12 of Title 31 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to control of
11 hazardous conditions, is amended by adding following Code Section 31-12-3.1, relating to
12 childhood vaccination registry and reporting requirements, maintenance, and use, a new
13 Code Section 31-12-3.2 to read as follows:

14 "31-12-3.2.

15 (a) Every public and nonpublic postsecondary educational institution shall provide to each
16 newly admitted or matriculated freshman or transfer student or to the student's parent or
17 guardian if the student is a minor, the following information:

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

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

24 (3) Scientific evidence suggests that college students living in dormitory facilities are at
25 a moderately increased risk of contracting meningococcal disease; and

26 (4) Immunization against meningococcal disease will decrease the risk of the disease.

- 1 (b) Students who are 18 years of age or older shall be required to sign a document
2 provided by the postsecondary educational institution stating that he or she has received
3 and reviewed the information provided as required by subsection (a) of this Code section.
4 If a student is a minor, only a parent or guardian may sign such document.
- 5 (c) Nothing in this Code section shall be construed to require any postsecondary
6 educational institution to provide or pay for vaccinations of students against meningococcal
7 disease."

8 **SECTION 2.**

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