

## COMMITTEE OF CONFERENCE 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, preventable diseases, and metabolic disorders, so as to  
3 require postsecondary educational institutions to provide information about meningococcal  
4 disease to certain enrolled students; to require documentation that a student has received a  
5 vaccination against meningococcal disease or has reviewed information about such disease;  
6 to provide that postsecondary educational institutions shall not be required to pay for such  
7 vaccinations; to provide postsecondary educational institutions that make a reasonable effort  
8 to comply with this Act with immunity from liability for students who contract such disease;  
9 to provide for related matters; to provide for an effective date; to repeal conflicting laws; and  
10 for other purposes.

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

13  
14 **SECTION 1.**

15 Chapter 12 of Title 31 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to control of  
16 hazardous conditions, preventable diseases, and metabolic disorders, is amended by adding  
17 following Code Section 31-12-3.1, relating to childhood vaccination registry and reporting  
18 requirements, maintenance, and use, a new Code Section 31-12-3.2 to read as follows:

19 "31-12-3.2.

20 (a) Every public and nonpublic postsecondary educational institution shall provide to each  
21 newly admitted freshman or matriculated student residing in campus housing as defined  
22 by the postsecondary educational institution or to the student's parent or guardian if the  
23 student is a minor, the following information:

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

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

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

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

6 (b) Students who are 18 years of age or older shall be required to sign a document  
7 provided by the postsecondary educational institution stating that he or she has received  
8 a vaccination against meningococcal disease or reviewed the information provided as  
9 required by subsection (a) of this Code section. If a student is a minor, only a parent or  
10 guardian may sign such document.

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

14 (d) Any postsecondary educational institution that has made a reasonable effort to comply  
15 with this Code section shall not be liable for damages or injuries sustained by a student by  
16 reason of such student's contracting meningococcal disease. "

17  
18 **SECTION 2.**

19 This Act shall become effective on January 1, 2004.

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21 **SECTION 3.**

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