

CHAPTER 146**(HB 342)**

AN ACT relating to vaccination for meningococcal meningitis disease.

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Kentucky:

SECTION 1. A NEW SECTION OF KRS CHAPTER 164 IS CREATED TO READ AS FOLLOWS:

The General Assembly hereby finds and declares that:

- (1) Meningococcal meningitis disease is a potentially fatal infectious and contagious bacterial disease that can be spread by coughing and sharing drinking glasses;*
- (2) Since the disease often presents itself with flu-like symptoms, many victims of the disease die before it is even diagnosed. From 1991 to 1997 the cases of meningococcal meningitis disease in young adults fifteen (15) to twenty-four (24) years of age nearly doubled;*
- (3) Survivors of meningococcal meningitis disease may have severe after effects of the disease, including mental retardation, hearing loss, and loss of limbs;*
- (4) College freshmen residing on campus in dormitories or residence halls have a risk of meningococcal meningitis disease over seven (7) times higher than do college students overall;*
- (5) The meningococcal meningitis disease vaccine has been shown to be eighty-five percent (85%) to ninety percent (90%) effective in producing antibodies against the most common strains of the disease; and*
- (6) The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recommends that college freshmen and their parents be educated about meningococcal meningitis disease and that vaccination should be made easily available to freshmen and undergraduate students who want to reduce their risk of disease.*

SECTION 2. A NEW SECTION OF KRS CHAPTER 164 IS CREATED TO READ AS FOLLOWS:

- (1) Each public or private educational institution that offers a postsecondary degree and has a residential campus shall provide vaccination information on meningococcal meningitis disease to full-time students living in resident housing.*
- (2) The vaccination information shall be contained in the student housing or enrollment application or lease document and shall include a space for the student to indicate whether or not the student has received the vaccination against meningococcal meningitis disease. If institutions provide electronic enrollment or registration to first-time students, the information required by this section may be provided or collected electronically.*
- (3) Vaccination information about meningococcal meningitis disease shall include detailed information on the risks of the disease and any recommendations issued by the National Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.*
- (4) The vaccination information obtained under this section that is in the possession of the educational institution is confidential and shall not be a public record.*

- (5) *This section shall not be construed to require the educational institution or the Cabinet for Health Services to provide or pay for the meningococcal meningitis disease vaccination.*

Approved April 22, 2004