

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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# 126th MAINE LEGISLATURE

## FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2013

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Legislative Document

No. 672

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H.P. 464

House of Representatives, February 26, 2013

### **An Act Relating to Exemption from Immunization for Schoolchildren**

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Reference to the Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs suggested and ordered printed.

*Millicent M. MacFarland*  
MILLICENT M. MacFARLAND  
Clerk

Presented by Representative GRAHAM of North Yarmouth.  
Cosponsored by Senator GRATWICK of Penobscot and  
Representatives: BEAUDOIN of Biddeford, DORNEY of Norridgewock, GATTINE of  
Westbrook, HAMANN of South Portland, KORNFELD of Bangor, PRINGLE of Windham,  
TURNER of Burlington, VOLK of Scarborough.

1 **Be it enacted by the People of the State of Maine as follows:**

2 **Sec. 1. 20-A MRSA §6355**, as amended by PL 2001, c. 326, §2, is further  
3 amended to read:

4 **§6355. Enrollment in school**

5 A superintendent may not permit any child to be enrolled in or to attend school  
6 without a certificate of immunization for each disease or other acceptable evidence of  
7 required immunization or immunity against the disease, except ~~as follows. if:~~

8 **1. Written assurance.** The parent provides a written assurance the child will be  
9 immunized within 90 days by private effort or provides, where applicable, a written  
10 consent to the child's immunization by a health officer, physician, nurse or other  
11 authorized person in public or private employ~~;~~

12 **2. Medical exemption.** The parent or the child provides a physician's written  
13 statement that immunization against one or more of the diseases may be medically  
14 inadvisable~~;~~ or

15 **3. Philosophical or religious exemption.** The parent states in writing a sincere  
16 religious belief that is contrary to the immunization requirement of this subchapter or an  
17 opposition to the immunization for philosophical reasons.

18 For a child excepted under subsection 1, 2 or 3, a school health provider as defined in  
19 section 6359, subsection 1, paragraph G-1 shall provide to a parent of the child  
20 information about the benefits and risks of immunization and sign a statement that the  
21 immunization information was provided to the parent. The signed statement must be  
22 included in the child's immunization records maintained by the superintendent under  
23 section 6357, subsection 1.

24 **SUMMARY**

25 This bill requires that a school health care provider provide to the parent of a child  
26 excepted from the immunization requirements for schoolchildren in the State information  
27 about the benefits and risks of immunization and sign a statement that the information has  
28 been provided to the parent.