

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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# 127th MAINE LEGISLATURE

## FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2015

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Legislative Document

No. 471

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H.P. 310

House of Representatives, February 24, 2015

### An Act To Improve Childhood Vaccination Rates in Maine

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Reference to the Committee on Health and Human Services suggested and ordered printed.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "R B. Hunt".

ROBERT B. HUNT  
Clerk

Presented by Representative SANBORN of Gorham.  
Cosponsored by Representative FARNSWORTH of Portland, Senator KATZ of Kennebec and  
Representatives: BURSTEIN of Lincolnville, GATTINE of Westbrook, HEAD of Bethel,  
HUBBELL of Bar Harbor, JORGENSEN of Portland, NUTTING of Oakland, Senators: DILL  
of Penobscot, HASKELL of Cumberland.

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

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

4 **3. Philosophical or religious exemption.** The parent states in writing a sincere  
5 religious belief that is contrary to the immunization requirement of this subchapter or an  
6 opposition to the immunization for philosophical reasons. The parent seeking a  
7 philosophical exemption must include with the statement written documentation signed  
8 by a health care practitioner verifying that the health care practitioner has reviewed with  
9 the parent information about the risks and benefits of immunization that is consistent with  
10 information published by the federal Department of Health and Human Services, Centers  
11 for Disease Control and Prevention. The written documentation must be signed by the  
12 health care practitioner prior to the enrollment of the child in a school.

13 **Sec. 2. 20-A MRSA §6359, sub-§3, ¶B**, as amended by PL 2001, c. 326, §6, is  
14 further amended to read:

15 B. The student or the parent, if the student is a minor, states in writing a sincere  
16 religious belief, ~~which~~ that is contrary to the immunization requirement of this  
17 subchapter or an opposition to the immunization for philosophical reasons. The  
18 parent seeking a philosophical exemption must include with the statement written  
19 documentation signed by a health care practitioner verifying that the health care  
20 practitioner has reviewed with the parent information about the risks and benefits of  
21 immunization that is consistent with information published by the federal Department  
22 of Health and Human Services, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. The  
23 written documentation must be signed by the health care practitioner prior to the  
24 enrollment of the child in a school.

25 **Sec. 3. Department of Health and Human Services to amend day care**  
26 **facility rules.** The Department of Health and Human Services shall amend its rules  
27 regarding immunization of children in licensed day care facilities to require a parent or  
28 guardian seeking a philosophical exemption to routine childhood vaccination to present  
29 prior to enrollment written documentation signed by a health care practitioner verifying  
30 that the health care practitioner has reviewed with the parent or guardian information  
31 about the risks and benefits of immunization that is consistent with information published  
32 by the federal Department of Health and Human Services, Centers for Disease Control  
33 and Prevention. Rules amended pursuant to this section are routine technical rules as  
34 defined in the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 5, chapter 375, subchapter 2-A.

35 **SUMMARY**

36 This bill requires a parent or guardian who is seeking a philosophical exemption to  
37 routine childhood vaccination when enrolling a child in school or a licensed day care  
38 facility to present written documentation signed by a health care practitioner that the  
39 health care practitioner has reviewed with the parent information about the risks and  
40 benefits of immunization that is consistent with information published by the federal  
41 Department of Health and Human Services, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

