



General Assembly

**Amendment**

January Session, 2021

LCO No. 7456



Offered by:  
SEN. SOMERS, 18<sup>th</sup> Dist.

To: Subst. House Bill No. 6423

File No. 431

Cal. No. 320

(As Amended)

**"AN ACT CONCERNING IMMUNIZATIONS."**

1 Strike everything after the enacting clause and substitute the  
2 following in lieu thereof:

3 "Section 1. (NEW) (*Effective from passage*) On or before January 1, 2022,  
4 and annually thereafter, the Department of Public Health shall identify  
5 each public and nonpublic school in the state that has reported that less  
6 than ninety-five per cent of its students have satisfied the immunization  
7 requirements set forth in section 10-204a of the general statutes, as  
8 amended by this act. The department shall (1) perform outreach to such  
9 schools in the form of education for students and their families  
10 concerning such immunization requirements and the consequences for  
11 not meeting such requirements, and (2) ensure that the appropriate  
12 vaccines are readily available for any student who has not satisfied such  
13 immunization requirements.

14 Sec. 2. Subsection (a) of section 38a-492r of the general statutes is

15 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective January*  
16 *1, 2022*):

17 (a) Each individual health insurance policy providing coverage of the  
18 type specified in subdivisions (1), (2), (4), (11) and (12) of section 38a-469  
19 delivered, issued for delivery, renewed, amended or continued in this  
20 state that provides coverage for prescription drugs shall provide  
21 [coverage for] (1) coverage for immunizations recommended by the  
22 American Academy of Pediatrics, American Academy of Family  
23 Physicians and the American College of Obstetricians and  
24 Gynecologists, and (2) with respect to immunizations that have in effect  
25 a recommendation from the Advisory Committee on Immunization  
26 Practices of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention with respect  
27 to the individual involved, coverage for such immunizations and at least  
28 a twenty-minute consultation between such individual and a health care  
29 provider authorized to administer such immunizations to such  
30 individual.

31 Sec. 3. Subsection (a) of section 38a-518r of the general statutes is  
32 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective January*  
33 *1, 2022*):

34 (a) Each group health insurance policy providing coverage of the type  
35 specified in subdivisions (1), (2), (4), (11) and (12) of section 38a-469  
36 delivered, issued for delivery, renewed, amended or continued in this  
37 state that provides coverage for prescription drugs shall provide  
38 [coverage for] (1) coverage for immunizations recommended by the  
39 American Academy of Pediatrics, American Academy of Family  
40 Physicians and the American College of Obstetricians and  
41 Gynecologists, and (2) with respect to immunizations that have in effect  
42 a recommendation from the Advisory Committee on Immunization  
43 Practices of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention with respect  
44 to the individual involved, coverage for such immunizations and at least  
45 a twenty-minute consultation between such individual and a health care  
46 provider authorized to administer such immunizations to such  
47 individual.

48       Sec. 4. (NEW) (*Effective from passage*) On or before January 1, 2022, the  
49 Department of Public Health shall (1) provide sufficient resources to  
50 school nurses to allow them to more efficiently track compliance with  
51 immunization requirements set forth in the general statutes, and (2)  
52 permit school nurses to electronically access the immunization data it  
53 reports to the department and update such data as needed to ensure its  
54 accuracy.

55       Sec. 5. (NEW) (*Effective from passage*) On or before January 1, 2022, the  
56 Department of Public Health shall develop a program providing  
57 community-based educational sessions concerning vaccines. Such  
58 sessions shall be open to all residents and include both in-person and  
59 virtual question-and-answer sessions with a varied panel of physicians  
60 licensed pursuant to chapter 370 of the general statutes, as determined  
61 by the Commissioner of Public Health.

62       Sec. 6. (NEW) (*Effective from passage*) The Commissioner of Public  
63 Health shall include raw data in addition to percentages in any report  
64 prepared by the Department of Public Health concerning exemptions  
65 from immunization requirements or compliance with such  
66 requirements.

67       Sec. 7. (NEW) (*Effective from passage*) Notwithstanding any provision  
68 of sections 10-204a, 10a-155, 10a-155b, 19a-79 and 19a-87b of the general  
69 statutes, as amended by this act, the Department of Public Health shall  
70 collect all data concerning compliance with the immunization  
71 requirements of said sections on February first of each year.

72       Sec. 8. (NEW) (*Effective from passage*) Prior to January 1, 2023, the  
73 Department of Public Health shall develop a professional development  
74 program that provides training to pediatricians in implicit bias toward  
75 persons who are unvaccinated. On and after January 1, 2023, the  
76 department shall require each pediatrician licensed pursuant to chapter  
77 370 of the general statutes to participate in such program and receive  
78 professional development training in implicit bias toward persons who  
79 are unvaccinated. As used in this section, "training in implicit bias

80 toward persons who are unvaccinated" means training on how to  
81 recognize and mitigate unconscious biases against persons who are  
82 unvaccinated that might influence a pediatrician's judgments and  
83 decisions when interacting with such persons.

84 Sec. 9. (NEW) (*Effective from passage*) No pediatrician licensed  
85 pursuant to chapter 370 of the general statutes shall remove a patient  
86 from his or her practice or otherwise discriminate against a patient or  
87 his or her family members on account of such patient's vaccination  
88 status.

89 Sec. 10. Subsection (a) of section 10-204a of the general statutes is  
90 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from*  
91 *passage*):

92 (a) Each local or regional board of education, or similar body  
93 governing a nonpublic school or schools, shall require each child to be  
94 protected by adequate immunization against diphtheria, pertussis,  
95 tetanus, poliomyelitis, measles, mumps, rubella, hemophilus influenzae  
96 type B and any other vaccine required by the schedule for active  
97 immunization adopted pursuant to section 19a-7f before being  
98 permitted to enroll in any program operated by a public or nonpublic  
99 school under its jurisdiction. Before being permitted to enter seventh  
100 grade, a child shall receive a second immunization against measles. Any  
101 such child who (1) presents a certificate from a physician, physician  
102 assistant, advanced practice registered nurse or local health agency  
103 stating that initial immunizations have been given to such child and  
104 additional immunizations are in process under guidelines and  
105 schedules specified by the Commissioner of Public Health; or (2)  
106 presents a certificate from a physician, physician assistant or advanced  
107 practice registered nurse stating that in the opinion of such physician,  
108 physician assistant or advanced practice registered nurse such  
109 immunization is medically contraindicated because of the physical  
110 condition of such child; or (3) presents a statement from the parents or  
111 guardian of such child that such immunization would be contrary to the  
112 religious beliefs of such child or the parents or guardian of such child,

113 which statement shall be acknowledged, in accordance with the  
114 provisions of sections 1-32, 1-34 and 1-35, by (A) a judge of a court of  
115 record or a family support magistrate, (B) a clerk or deputy clerk of a  
116 court having a seal, (C) a town clerk, (D) a notary public, (E) a justice of  
117 the peace, (F) an attorney admitted to the bar of this state, or (G)  
118 notwithstanding any provision of chapter 6, a school nurse; or (4) in the  
119 case of measles, mumps or rubella, presents a certificate from a  
120 physician, physician assistant or advanced practice registered nurse or  
121 from the director of health in such child's present or previous town of  
122 residence, stating that the child has had a confirmed case of such  
123 disease; or (5) in the case of hemophilus influenzae type B has passed  
124 his fifth birthday; or (6) in the case of pertussis, has passed his sixth  
125 birthday, shall be exempt from the appropriate provisions of this  
126 section. If the parents or guardians of any child are unable to pay for  
127 such immunizations, the expense of such immunizations shall, on the  
128 recommendations of such board of education, be paid by the town. On  
129 or before January 1, 2022, the Department of Public Health shall develop  
130 a plan to ensure that vaccines are more accessible to children who are  
131 eligible for free or reduced price lunches. Before being permitted to  
132 enter seventh grade, the parents or guardian of any child who is exempt  
133 on religious grounds from the immunization requirements of this  
134 section, pursuant to subdivision (3) of this subsection, shall present to  
135 such school a statement that such immunization requirements are  
136 contrary to the religious beliefs of such child or the parents or guardian  
137 of such child, which statement shall be acknowledged, in accordance  
138 with the provisions of sections 1-32, 1-34 and 1-35, by (A) a judge of a  
139 court of record or a family support magistrate, (B) a clerk or deputy clerk  
140 of a court having a seal, (C) a town clerk, (D) a notary public, (E) a justice  
141 of the peace, (F) an attorney admitted to the bar of this state, or (G)  
142 notwithstanding any provision of chapter 6, a school nurse.

143 Sec. 11. Section 10-204a of the general statutes is amended by adding  
144 subsection (d) as follows (*Effective from passage*):

145 (NEW) (d) The parents or guardian of any child who is exempt from  
146 the immunization requirements set forth in this section on religious

147 grounds shall provide, on or before September 1, 2022, a record of all  
 148 immunizations such child has received to the relevant local or regional  
 149 board of education or similar body governing a nonpublic school or  
 150 schools and update such record not later than seven days after receiving  
 151 any additional immunizations."

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:

Section 1	<i>from passage</i>	New section
Sec. 2	<i>January 1, 2022</i>	38a-492r(a)
Sec. 3	<i>January 1, 2022</i>	38a-518r(a)
Sec. 4	<i>from passage</i>	New section
Sec. 5	<i>from passage</i>	New section
Sec. 6	<i>from passage</i>	New section
Sec. 7	<i>from passage</i>	New section
Sec. 8	<i>from passage</i>	New section
Sec. 9	<i>from passage</i>	New section
Sec. 10	<i>from passage</i>	10-204a(a)
Sec. 11	<i>from passage</i>	10-204a