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RWH 3/27/08

P.L. 2006, CHAPTER 64, *approved August 2, 2006*

Senate, No. 1461

1 AN ACT concerning the distribution of information regarding  
2 meningococcal meningitis to parents of certain school-aged  
3 children and supplementing Title 18A of the New Jersey Statutes  
4 and Title 26 of the Revised Statutes.

5

6 **BE IT ENACTED** *by the Senate and General Assembly of the State*  
7 *of New Jersey:*

8

9 1. The Commissioner of Health and Senior Services, in  
10 consultation with the Commissioner of Education, shall develop an  
11 educational fact sheet concerning meningococcal meningitis for  
12 distribution to parents or guardians of students in grades 6 through  
13 12, pursuant to section 2 of P.L. , c. (C.) (pending before the  
14 Legislature as this bill). The educational fact sheet shall include,  
15 but need not be limited to, the following information:

16 a. the causes, symptoms and means of transmission of  
17 meningococcal meningitis;

18 b. the availability, effectiveness and risks of the meningitis  
19 vaccine; and

20 c. where additional information concerning the disease can be  
21 obtained.

22

23 2. a. (1) For the 2006 school year, a school district shall  
24 distribute to parents and guardians of students in grades 6 through  
25 12 the educational fact sheet on meningitis prepared pursuant to  
26 section 1 of P.L. , c. (C.) (pending before the Legislature as  
27 this bill), in a manner prescribed by the Commissioner of  
28 Education.

29 (2) Beginning with the 2007 school year, a school district shall  
30 distribute the educational fact sheet annually to parents or guardians  
31 of students in the sixth grade in a manner prescribed by the  
32 Commissioner of Education.

33 b. The Commissioner of Education shall also make the  
34 educational fact sheet available to private schools educating  
35 students in grades 6 through 12, or any combination thereof. Such  
36 schools are encouraged to distribute the fact sheet to parents or  
37 guardians of students at the school; however, nothing in this section  
38 shall be construed to require such schools to distribute the fact  
39 sheet.

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41 3. This act shall take effect immediately.

## STATEMENT

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This bill requires the Commissioner of Health and Senior Services to develop an educational fact sheet concerning meningococcal meningitis. Accordingly, the bill directs the Commissioner of Education to distribute the fact sheet to parents and guardians of students in grades 6 through 12 at the start of the 2006 school year. Beginning with the 2007 school year, the bill requires a school district to distribute the brochure to parents and guardians of students in the sixth grade only. Private schools are also strongly encouraged to distribute the fact sheet.

The fact sheet shall include, but need not be limited to the following:

- the causes, symptoms and means of transmission of meningococcal meningitis;
- the availability, effectiveness and risks of the meningitis vaccine; and
- where additional information concerning the disease can be obtained.

Meningococcal meningitis is a life-threatening bacterial infection affecting as many as 3,000 persons in the nation annually. Although it is associated with an overall mortality rate of between 8% and 13%, deaths associated with the disease increase with age. Recent reports from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) indicate a mortality rate of 12% for persons with the disease who are 10 to 17 years old, and 14% for persons 14 to 24. Accordingly, an advisory committee within the CDC recently issued a recommendation that adolescents receive the vaccination at 11 or 12 years old or before entering high school.

Although current law requires four-year colleges and universities to provide information about meningitis and the meningococcal vaccination to prospective students, no similar requirements exist for younger students. Based upon the significant risks the disease poses, it is a matter of public health importance to educate parents and guardians about the disease and the availability of a vaccination.

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Requires DHSS and DOE to provide information on meningococcal meningitis to parents or guardians of certain school-aged children.

# SENATE, No. 1461

## STATE OF NEW JERSEY 212th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED FEBRUARY 27, 2006

**Sponsored by:**

**Senator JOSEPH F. VITALE**

**District 19 (Middlesex)**

**Senator THOMAS H. KEAN, JR.**

**District 21 (Essex, Morris, Somerset and Union)**

**Assemblyman LOUIS D. GREENWALD**

**District 6 (Camden)**

**Co-Sponsored by:**

**Assemblyman Gordon**

**SYNOPSIS**

Requires DHSS and DOE to provide information on meningococcal meningitis to parents or guardians of certain school-aged children.

**CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT**

As introduced.



**(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 6/27/2006)**

1 AN ACT concerning the distribution of information regarding  
2 meningococcal meningitis to parents of certain school-aged  
3 children and supplementing Title 18A of the New Jersey Statutes  
4 and Title 26 of the Revised Statutes.

5  
6 **BE IT ENACTED** by the Senate and General Assembly of the State  
7 of New Jersey:

8  
9 1. The Commissioner of Health and Senior Services, in  
10 consultation with the Commissioner of Education, shall develop an  
11 educational fact sheet concerning meningococcal meningitis for  
12 distribution to parents or guardians of students in grades 6 through  
13 12, pursuant to section 2 of P.L. , c. (C.) (pending before the  
14 Legislature as this bill). The educational fact sheet shall include,  
15 but need not be limited to, the following information:

- 16 a. the causes, symptoms and means of transmission of  
17 meningococcal meningitis;  
18 b. the availability, effectiveness and risks of the meningitis  
19 vaccine; and  
20 c. where additional information concerning the disease can be  
21 obtained.

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23 2. a. (1) For the 2006 school year, a school district shall  
24 distribute to parents and guardians of students in grades 6 through  
25 12 the educational fact sheet on meningitis prepared pursuant to  
26 section 1 of P.L. , c. (C.) (pending before the Legislature as  
27 this bill), in a manner prescribed by the Commissioner of  
28 Education.

29 (2) Beginning with the 2007 school year, a school district shall  
30 distribute the educational fact sheet annually to parents or guardians  
31 of students in the sixth grade in a manner prescribed by the  
32 Commissioner of Education.

33 b. The Commissioner of Education shall also make the  
34 educational fact sheet available to private schools educating  
35 students in grades 6 through 12, or any combination thereof. Such  
36 schools are encouraged to distribute the fact sheet to parents or  
37 guardians of students at the school; however, nothing in this section  
38 shall be construed to require such schools to distribute the fact  
39 sheet.

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41 3. This act shall take effect immediately.

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44 STATEMENT

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46 This bill requires the Commissioner of Health and Senior  
47 Services to develop an educational fact sheet concerning  
48 meningococcal meningitis. Accordingly, the bill directs the

1 Commissioner of Education to distribute the fact sheet to parents  
2 and guardians of students in grades 6 through 12 at the start of the  
3 2006 school year. Beginning with the 2007 school year, the bill  
4 requires a school district to distribute the brochure to parents and  
5 guardians of students in the sixth grade only. Private schools are  
6 also strongly encouraged to distribute the fact sheet.

7 The fact sheet shall include, but need not be limited to the  
8 following:

- 9 • the causes, symptoms and means of transmission of  
10 meningococcal meningitis;
- 11 • the availability, effectiveness and risks of the meningitis vaccine;  
12 and
- 13 • where additional information concerning the disease can be  
14 obtained.

15 Meningococcal meningitis is a life-threatening bacterial infection  
16 affecting as many as 3,000 persons in the nation annually.  
17 Although it is associated with an overall mortality rate of between  
18 8% and 13%, deaths associated with the disease increase with age.  
19 Recent reports from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention  
20 (CDC) indicate a mortality rate of 12% for persons with the disease  
21 who are 10 to 17 years old, and 14% for persons 14 to 24.  
22 Accordingly, an advisory committee within the CDC recently issued  
23 a recommendation that adolescents receive the vaccination at 11 or  
24 12 years old or before entering high school.

25 Although current law requires four-year colleges and universities  
26 to provide information about meningitis and the meningococcal  
27 vaccination to prospective students, no similar requirements exist  
28 for younger students. Based upon the significant risks the disease  
29 poses, it is a matter of public health importance to educate parents  
30 and guardians about the disease and the availability of a  
31 vaccination.

SENATE HEALTH, HUMAN SERVICES AND SENIOR  
CITIZENS COMMITTEE

STATEMENT TO

**SENATE, No. 1461**

**STATE OF NEW JERSEY**

DATED: JUNE 15, 2006

The Senate Health, Human Services and Senior Citizens Committee reports favorably Senate Bill No. 1461.

This bill requires the Commissioners of Health and Senior Services and Education to develop an educational fact sheet about meningococcal meningitis. The fact sheet is to be distributed by school districts to parents and guardians of students in grades 6 through 12 during the 2006-2007 school year, and only to sixth graders beginning with the 2007-2008 school year. Private schools are strongly encouraged to distribute the fact sheet.

The fact sheet shall include at least the following information:

- the causes, symptoms and means of transmission of meningococcal meningitis;
- the availability, effectiveness and risks of the vaccine; and
- sources for obtaining additional information.

Meningococcal meningitis is a life-threatening bacterial infection affecting as many as 3,000 persons in the nation annually. Although it is associated with an overall mortality rate of between 8% and 13%, that rate increases with age. Recent reports from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) indicate a mortality rate of 12% for persons with the disease who are 10 to 17 years old, and 14% for persons 14 to 24. An advisory committee within the CDC recently recommended that adolescents receive the vaccination at 11 or 12 years of age or before entering high school.

Current State law requires four-year colleges and universities to provide information about the meningococcal meningitis to prospective students. In 2004, N.J.S.A.18A:62-15.1 was enacted to require students residing in college dormitories in the State to be vaccinated (exceptions are made for medical reasons and conflicts with bona fide religious tenets or practices).

This bill is identical to Assembly Bill No. 1781 (Greenwald), which is pending in the Assembly.



# ASSEMBLY, No. 1781

## STATE OF NEW JERSEY 212th LEGISLATURE

PRE-FILED FOR INTRODUCTION IN THE 2006 SESSION

**Sponsored by:**

**Assemblyman LOUIS D. GREENWALD**

**District 6 (Camden)**

**SYNOPSIS**

Requires DHSS and DOE to provide information on meningococcal meningitis to parents or guardians of certain school-aged children.

**CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT**

Introduced Pending Technical Review by Legislative Counsel



1 AN ACT concerning the distribution of information regarding  
2 meningococcal meningitis to parents of certain school-aged  
3 children and supplementing Title 18A of the New Jersey Statutes  
4 and Title 26 of the Revised Statutes.

5

6 **BE IT ENACTED** *by the Senate and General Assembly of the State*  
7 *of New Jersey:*

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9 1. The Commissioner of Health and Senior Services, in  
10 consultation with the Commissioner of Education, shall develop an  
11 educational fact sheet concerning meningococcal meningitis for  
12 distribution to parents or guardians of students in grades 6 through  
13 12, pursuant to section 2 of P.L. , c. (C. ) (pending before the  
14 Legislature as this bill). The educational fact sheet shall include,  
15 but need not be limited to, the following information:

16 a. the causes, symptoms and means of transmission of  
17 meningococcal meningitis;

18 b. the availability, effectiveness and risks of the meningitis  
19 vaccine; and

20 c. where additional information concerning the disease can be  
21 obtained.

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23 2. a. (1) For the 2006 school year, a school district shall  
24 distribute to parents and guardians of students in grades 6 through  
25 12 the educational fact sheet on meningitis prepared pursuant to  
26 section 1 of P.L. , c. (C. ) (pending before the Legislature  
27 as this bill), in a manner prescribed by the Commissioner of  
28 Education.

29 (2) Beginning with the 2007 school year, a school district shall  
30 distribute the educational fact sheet annually to parents or guardians  
31 of students in the sixth grade in a manner prescribed by the  
32 Commissioner of Education.

33 b. The Commissioner of Education shall also make the  
34 educational fact sheet available to private schools educating  
35 students in grades 6 through 12, or any combination thereof. Such  
36 schools are encouraged to distribute the fact sheet to parents or  
37 guardians of students at the school; however, nothing in this section  
38 shall be construed to require such schools to distribute the fact  
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41 3. This act shall take effect immediately.

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STATEMENT

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47 Services to develop an educational fact sheet concerning  
48 meningococcal meningitis. Accordingly, the bill directs the

A1781 GREENWALD

1 Commissioner of Education to distribute the fact sheet to parents  
2 and guardians of students in grades 6 through 12 at the start of the  
3 2006 school year. Beginning with the 2007 school year, the bill  
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10 meningococcal meningitis;
- 11 • the availability, effectiveness and risks of the meningitis vaccine;  
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- 13 • where additional information concerning the disease can be  
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15 Meningococcal meningitis is a life-threatening bacterial infection  
16 affecting as many as 3,000 persons in the nation annually.  
17 Although it is associated with an overall mortality rate of between  
18 8% and 13%, deaths associated with the disease increase with age.  
19 Recent reports from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention  
20 (CDC) indicate a mortality rate of 12% for persons with the disease  
21 who are 10 to 17 years old, and 14% for persons 14 to 24.  
22 Accordingly, an advisory committee within the CDC recently issued  
23 a recommendation that adolescents receive the vaccination at 11 or  
24 12 years old or before entering high school.

25 Although current law requires four-year colleges and universities  
26 to provide information about meningitis and the meningococcal  
27 vaccination to prospective students, no similar requirements exist  
28 for younger students. Based upon the significant risks the disease  
29 poses, it is a matter of public health importance to educate parents  
30 and guardians about the disease and the availability of a  
31 vaccination.

# ASSEMBLY HEALTH AND SENIOR SERVICES COMMITTEE

## STATEMENT TO

### ASSEMBLY, No. 1781

# STATE OF NEW JERSEY

DATED: MAY 11, 2006

The Assembly Health and Senior Services Committee reports favorably Assembly Bill No. 1781.

This bill requires the Commissioner of Health and Senior Services to develop an educational fact sheet concerning meningococcal meningitis. Accordingly, the bill directs the Commissioner of Education to distribute the fact sheet to parents and guardians of students in grades 6 through 12 at the start of the 2006-2007 school year. Beginning with the 2007-2008 school year, the bill requires a school district to distribute the fact sheet to parents and guardians of students in the sixth grade only. Nonpublic schools are also strongly encouraged to distribute the fact sheet.

The fact sheet is to include, but need not be limited to, the following:

- the causes, symptoms and means of transmission of meningococcal meningitis;
- the availability, effectiveness and risks of the meningitis vaccine; and
- where additional information concerning the disease can be obtained.

Although current law requires four-year colleges and universities to provide information about meningitis and the meningococcal vaccination to prospective students, no similar requirements exist for younger students. Based upon the significant risks the disease poses, it is a matter of public health importance to educate parents and guardians about the disease and the availability of a vaccination.

This bill is also identical to Senate Bill No. 1461 of 2006 (Vitale/T. Kean), which is pending before the Senate Health, Human Services and Senior Citizens Committee.

This bill was pre-filed for introduction in the 2006-2007 session pending technical review. As reported, the bill includes the changes required by technical review, which has been performed.