

State of Arkansas

76th General Assembly

Regular Session, 1987

HOUSE BILL 1777

By: Representatives Thicksten & Matthews

"AN ACT TO REQUIRE THAT CERTAIN PERSONS ENROLLED IN AREA VOCATIONAL-TECHNICAL SCHOOLS IN THE STATE OF ARKANSAS FURNISH PROOF THAT THEY HAVE IMMUNITY AGAINST MEASLES, RUBELLA, AND SUCH OTHER DISEASES AS DETERMINED BY THE STATE BOARD OF HEALTH; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES."

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:

SECTION 1. PURPOSE. Immunizations against measles, rubella, and other communicable diseases have resulted in a dramatic decrease in the incidence of these diseases in this country. However, these diseases continue to occur on campuses of American educational institutions, and a more intensified effort is needed to prevent and control these diseases. A requirement that certain area vocational-technical school enrollees furnish proof that they have been immunized against certain communicable diseases will alleviate the potential for an outbreak of such diseases. The purpose of this legislation is to assure that all enrollees of area vocational-technical schools in Arkansas, prior to attendance, furnish proof that they have received immunizations against measles, rubella, and such other diseases designated by the State Board of Health.

SECTION 2. IMMUNIZATION REQUIREMENTS FOR ALL ENROLLEES AT AREA VOCATIONAL-TECHNICAL SCHOOLS. No full-time student may attend an area vocational-technical school in this State unless he or she has furnished proof, within such time as set by the school, but not to exceed 30 calendar days after enrollment, by way of an official record from another educational institution in Arkansas, or a certificate from a licensed medical doctor or an authorized public health department representative that he or she has immunity

against measles, rubella, and such other diseases as delineated by the Arkansas State Board of Health.

SECTION 3. RESPONSIBILITY AND REGULATIONS. The State Board of Health is empowered to promulgate rules and regulations for the proper enforcement of the provisions of this Act, including, but not limited to the authority to examine records and conduct investigations to assure compliance. The responsibility for the enforcement of these requirements rests with the directors of admissions or registration at each area vocational-technical school.

SECTION 4. EXEMPTIONS. (A) Physical Disability. If, at the discretion of a medical doctor licensed to practice in Arkansas, an individual is deemed to have a physical disability which may contra-indicate one or more of the vaccinations required by this Act, a certificate approved by the Arkansas Department of Health and signed by such medical doctor may be accepted in lieu of proof of vaccination.

(B) Religious Exemption. The provisions of this Act shall not apply if the individual furnishes to the area vocational-technical school written proof from a church or denomination official that such immunization conflicts with the religious tenets and practices of such recognized church or religious denomination of which said individual is an adherent or member.

SECTION 5. REPEAL OF CONFLICTING LAWS. Those laws or parts of laws in conflict herewith are hereby repealed.

SECTION 6. SEVERABILITY. If, for any reason, any section or provision of this Act shall be held to be unconstitutional, or invalid for other reason, it shall not affect the remainder of this Act.

