A.B. No. 123—Revises provisions governing the requirements concerning immunizations of pupils for purposes of enrollment in school.

(BDR 34-593)
AN ACT relating to education; requiring certain information regarding exemptions from immunization requirements for pupils to be [submitted to certain public health agencies;] maintained by a school district, charter school or private school; requiring notification to the parent or guardian of a pupil enrolled in a public or private school concerning certain outbreaks; requiring notification to the Division of Public and Behavioral Health of the Department of Health and Human Services concerning the number of children who receive such exemptions; prescribing the duration of exemptions from immunization requirements; requiring an annual statement regarding certain medical exemptions to be submitted to the board of trustees of a school district or the governing body of a school; providing a penalty; and providing other matters properly relating thereto.

Legislative Counsel’s Digest:
Existing law generally prohibits enrolling a child in a public or private school unless the child has received certain immunizations. (NRS 392.435, 394.192) Existing law further requires a public or private school to exempt a child from those requirements if the parent or guardian of the child submits to the board of trustees of the school district or the governing body of the school, as applicable, a written statement indicating that: (1) the religious belief of the parent or guardian prohibits the immunization of the child; or (2) the child has a medical condition that does not allow the child to receive some or all of the required immunizations. (NRS 392.437, 392.439, 394.193, 394.194) Sections 3, 4, 7 and 8 of this bill require such a written statement concerning religious belief or medical condition of a child to include the name of the child [4 and, for a child enrolled in a public school, the name of his or her school,] and written consent to allow the board of trustees or governing body to provide a copy of the written statement or disclose information contained in the statement to the Division of Public and Behavioral Health of the Department of Health and Human Services and the local health officer. Sections 2 and 6 of this bill require the board of trustees of a school district or the governing body of a charter school or private school to [submit to the Division and the local health officer] maintain a copy of each such written statement received
by the board of trustees or governing body [—Sections 2 and 6 additionally authorize the
Division or local health officer to share such a written statement with certain other state and
local public health authorities. Sections 2, 6 and 10 of this bill provide that such a written
statement is otherwise confidential.] in the records of the school district, charter school or
private school. Section 1 of this bill makes a conforming change.

Existing law requires the parent or guardian of a child who has a medical condition that
does not allow the child to receive the required immunizations to submit a written statement
of that fact to receive an exemption from the required immunizations. (NRS 392.439,
394.194) Existing law requires the board of trustees of a school district or the governing
body of a charter school or private school to report to the Division of Public and
Behavioral Health of the Department of Health and Human Services the exact number
of pupils who have completed the required immunizations. (NRS 392.435, 394.192)
Sections 2.5 and 6.5 of this bill additionally require a board of trustees or governing
body to provide the Division with the exact number of pupils for whom a statement of
exemption has been received. Sections 2.5 and 6.5 also require a board of trustees or
governing body to notify the parent or guardian of each pupil enrolled at a school of an
outbreak of a disease for which immunization is required under certain circumstances.

Sections 3, 4, 7 and 8 provide that an exemption from immunization requirements
that is based on religious belief or a permanent medical condition remains valid for the
duration of the child’s enrollment in the school district, charter school or private school,
as applicable. If the medical condition of the child is not permanent, sections 4 and 8
require [seeks] a statement of exemption to be submitted before the beginning of each school
year for the child to remain exempt for that school year. If the parent or guardian of a child for
whom such a statement has previously been submitted fails to submit such a statement before
the beginning of a school year and the child has not obtained the required immunizations,
sections 4 and 8 require the child to be excluded from school. Sections 5 and 9 of this bill
make it a misdemeanor for a parent or guardian to refuse to remove his or her child from
school if the child is required to be excluded from school for that reason.

THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF NEVADA, REPRESENTED IN
SENATE AND ASSEMBLY, DO ENACT AS FOLLOWS:

Section 1. NRS 391.292 is hereby amended to read as follows:

391.292 A school nurse shall, for each school at which he or she is
responsible for providing nursing services:
1. Ensure that each pupil enrolled in the school has been immunized in
accordance with, if exempt from or has otherwise complied with, the requirements
set forth in NRS 392.435 to 392.446, inclusive [—], and section 2 of this act.
2. Assess and evaluate the general health and physical development of the
pupils enrolled in the school to identify those pupils who have physical or mental
conditions that impede their ability to learn.
3. Report the results of an evaluation conducted pursuant to subsection 2 to:
   (a) A parent or guardian of the pupil;
   (b) Each administrator and teacher directly involved with the education of the
   pupil; and
   (c) Other professional personnel within the school district who need the
   information to assist the pupil with the pupil’s health or education.
4. Design and carry out a plan of nursing care for a pupil with special needs
   which incorporates any plan specified by the pupil’s physician or provider of health
care, as defined in NRS 629.031, and which is approved by the pupil’s parent or
   guardian. The nursing services provided pursuant to a plan of nursing care must be
   performed in compliance with chapter 632 of NRS.
5. When appropriate, refer a pupil and the pupil’s parent or guardian to other
   sources in the community to obtain services necessary for the health of the pupil.
6. Interpret medical and nursing information that relates to a pupil’s individual educational plan or individualized accommodation plan and make recommendations to:
   (a) Professional personnel directly involved with that pupil; and
   (b) The parents or guardian of that pupil.

Sec. 2. Chapter 392 of NRS is hereby amended by adding thereto a new section to read as follows:

   The board of trustees of a school district or the governing body of a charter school, as applicable, shall submit maintain a copy of each statement it receives pursuant to NRS 392.437 or 392.439 to the Division of Public and Behavioral Health of the Department of Health and Human Services and the local health officer.

2. The Division of Public and Behavioral Health or a local health officer may provide a copy of a statement received pursuant to subsection 1 or disclose the information contained in the statement only to the State Board of Health, local boards of health, officers and agents thereof and, if an outbreak of a disease for which an immunization is required by NRS 392.435 occurs, any other federal or state agency responding to the outbreak. The statement and the information contained therein are otherwise confidential. If in the records of the school district or charter school, as applicable, for the duration of the exemption as prescribed by those sections.

Sec. 2.5. NRS 392.435 is hereby amended to read as follows:

392.435 1. Unless excused because of religious belief or medical condition and except as otherwise provided in subsection 5, a child may not be enrolled in a public school within this State unless the child’s parents or guardian submit to the board of trustees of the school district in which the child resides or the governing body of the charter school in which the child has been accepted for enrollment a certificate stating that the child has been immunized and has received proper boosters for that immunization or is complying with the schedules established by regulation pursuant to NRS 439.550 for the following diseases:
   (a) Diphtheria;
   (b) Tetanus;
   (c) Pertussis if the child is under 6 years of age;
   (d) Poliomyelitis;
   (e) Rubella;
   (f) Rubeola; and
   (g) Such other diseases as the local board of health or the State Board of Health may determine.

2. The certificate must show that the required vaccines and boosters were given and must bear the signature of a licensed physician or the physician’s designee or a registered nurse or the nurse’s designee, attesting that the certificate accurately reflects the child’s record of immunization.

3. If the requirements of subsection 1 can be met with one visit to a physician or clinic, procedures for conditional enrollment do not apply.

4. A child may enter school conditionally if the parent or guardian submits a certificate from a physician or local health officer that the child is receiving the required immunizations. If a certificate from the physician or local health officer showing that the child has been fully immunized is not submitted to the appropriate school officers within 90 school days, or its equivalent in a school district operating under an alternative schedule authorized pursuant to NRS 388.090, after the child was conditionally admitted, the child must be excluded from school and may not be readmitted until the requirements for immunization have been met. A child who is
excluded from school pursuant to this section is a neglected child for the purposes of NRS 432.097 to 432.130, inclusive, and chapter 432B of NRS.

5. A child who transfers to a school in this State from a school outside this State because of the military transfer of the parent or legal guardian of the child must be enrolled in school in this State regardless of whether the child has been immunized. Unless a different time frame is prescribed pursuant to NRS 388F.010, the parent or legal guardian shall submit a certificate from a physician or local health officer showing that the child:

(a) If the requirements of subsection 1 can be met with one visit to a physician or clinic, has been fully immunized within 30 school days, or its equivalent in a school district operating under an alternative schedule authorized pursuant to NRS 388.090, after the child was enrolled; or

(b) If the requirements of subsection 1 cannot be met with one visit to a physician or clinic, is receiving the required immunizations within 30 school days, or its equivalent in a school district operating under an alternative schedule authorized pursuant to NRS 388.090, after the child was enrolled. A certificate from the physician or local health officer showing that the child has been fully immunized must be submitted to the appropriate school officers within 120 school days, or its equivalent in a school district operating under an alternative schedule authorized pursuant to NRS 388.090, after the child was enrolled.

If the parent or legal guardian fails to submit the documentation required pursuant to this subsection, the child must be excluded from school and may not be readmitted until the requirements for immunization have been met. A child who is excluded from school pursuant to this section is a neglected child for the purposes of NRS 432.097 to 432.130, inclusive, and chapter 432B of NRS.

6. The board of trustees of a school district or the governing body of a charter school shall notify the parent or guardian of each pupil enrolled at a school in the district or the charter school, as applicable, of an outbreak of a disease described in subsection 1 if the outbreak occurs:

(a) Among pupils enrolled at the school; or

(b) In the area in which the school is located and the Division of Public and Behavioral Health of the Department of Health and Human Services or the local health authority requests the board of trustees or governing body, as applicable, to provide such notice.

7. Before December 31 of each year, each school district and the governing body of each charter school shall report to the Division of Public and Behavioral Health of the Department of Health and Human Services, on a form furnished by the Division, the exact number of pupils who:

(a) Have completed the immunizations required by this section;

(b) For whom a statement of exemption has been received pursuant to NRS 392.437 or 392.439.

8. The certificate of immunization must be included in the pupil’s academic or cumulative record and transferred as part of that record upon request.

Sec. 3. NRS 392.437 is hereby amended to read as follows:

392.437. A public school shall not refuse to enroll a child as a pupil because the child has not been immunized pursuant to NRS 392.435 if the parents or guardian of the child has submitted to the board of trustees of the school district or the governing body of a charter school in which the child has been accepted for enrollment a written statement indicating that their religious belief prohibits immunization of such child which includes, without limitation, the name of the child and the school in which the child has been accepted for enrollment; and
2. [Written consent that meets the requirements of 34 C.F.R. § 99.30 for the board of trustees or governing body, as applicable, to disclose the written statement to the Division of Public and Behavioral Health of the Department of Health and Human Services and the local health officer pursuant to section 2 of this act.] An exemption pursuant to this section remains valid for the duration of the child’s enrollment in the school district or charter school, as applicable.

Sec. 4. NRS 392.439 is hereby amended to read as follows:

392.439 1. If the medical condition of a child will not permit the child to be immunized to the extent required by NRS 392.435 and a written statement of this fact [is signed by a licensed physician or advanced practice registered nurse and by the parents or guardian of the child.] that meets the requirements of this section is submitted to the board of trustees of the school district or governing body of the charter school in which the child has been accepted for enrollment, the board of trustees or governing body, as applicable, shall exempt the child from all or part of the provisions of NRS 392.435, as the case may be, for enrollment purposes:

(a) If the medical condition of the child is not permanent, for that school year;
(b) If the medical condition of the child is permanent, for the duration of the child’s enrollment in the school district or charter school, as applicable.

2. A written statement submitted pursuant to subsection 1 must:

(a) Be signed by a licensed physician, physician assistant or advanced practice registered nurse and by the parents or guardian of the child; and
(b) Include, without limitation, the name of the child and the school in which the child has been accepted for enrollment, and
(c) Be accompanied by written consent that meets the requirements of 34 C.F.R. § 99.30 for the board of trustees or governing body, as applicable, to provide a copy of the written statement to the Division of Public and Behavioral Health of the Department of Health and Human Services and the local health officer pursuant to section 2 of this act.

2. A written statement for a child who suffers from a medical condition that is not permanent submitted to the board of trustees or governing body pursuant to subsection 1 must be resubmitted before the next school year, if applicable. If such a statement is not submitted and the child has not been immunized as required by NRS 392.435 before the next school year, the child must be excluded from school and may not be accepted for enrollment until the requirements of this section or NRS 392.435 are met. [A child who is excluded from school pursuant to this section shall be deemed to be a neglected child for the purposes of NRS 432.097 to 432.130, inclusive, and chapter 432B of NRS.]

Sec. 5. NRS 392.448 is hereby amended to read as follows:

392.448 Any parent or guardian who refuses to remove his or her child from the public school in which the child is enrolled when retention in school is prohibited under the provisions of NRS 392.435, 392.439, 392.443 or 392.446 is guilty of a misdemeanor.

Sec. 6. Chapter 394 of NRS is hereby amended by adding thereto a new section to read as follows:

The governing body of a private school shall maintain a copy of each statement it receives pursuant to NRS 394.193 or 394.194 to the Division of Public and Behavioral Health of the Department of Health and Human Services and the local health officer.

2. The Division of Public and Behavioral Health or a local health officer may provide a copy of a statement received pursuant to subsection 1 or disclose the information contained in the statement only to the State Board of Health, local boards of health and officers, agents thereof and, if an outbreak of a disease
for which an immunization is required by NRS 394.192 occurs, any other federal
or state agency responding to the outbreak. The statement and the information
contained therein are otherwise confidential. in the records of the private school
for the duration of the exemption as prescribed by those sections.

Sec. 6.5. NRS 394.192 is hereby amended to read as follows:

394.192 1. Unless excused because of religious belief or medical condition,
a child may not be enrolled in a private school within this State unless the child’s
parents or guardian submit to the governing body of the private school a certificate
stating that the child has been immunized and has received proper boosters for that
immunization or is complying with the schedules established by regulation pursuant
to NRS 439.550 for the following diseases:

(a) Diphtheria;
(b) Tetanus;
(c) Pertussis if the child is under 6 years of age;
(d) Poliomyelitis;
(e) Rubella;
(f) Rubeola; and
(g) Such other diseases as the local board of health or the State Board of Health
may determine.

2. The certificate must show that the required vaccines and boosters were
given and must bear a signature of a licensed physician or the physician’s designee
or a registered nurse or the nurse’s designee, attesting that the certificate accurately
reflects the child’s record of immunization.

3. If the requirements of subsection 1 can be met with one visit to a physician
or clinic, procedures for conditional enrollment do not apply.

4. A child may enter school conditionally if the parent or guardian submits a
certificate from a physician or local health officer that the child is receiving the
required immunizations. If a certificate from the physician or local health officer
showing that the child has been fully immunized is not submitted to the appropriate
school officials within 90 school days after the child was conditionally admitted,
the child must be excluded from school and may not be readmitted until the
requirements for immunization have been met. A child who is excluded from
school pursuant to this section is a neglected child for the purposes of NRS 432.097
to 432.130, inclusive, and chapter 432B of NRS.

5. The governing body of a private school shall notify the parent or
guardian of each pupil enrolled at the school of an outbreak of a disease
described in subsection 1 if the outbreak occurs:

(a) Among pupils enrolled at the school; or
(b) In the area in which the school is located and the Division of Public and
Behavioral Health of the Department of Health and Human Services requests the
board of trustees or governing body, as applicable, to provide such notice.

6. Before December 31 of each year, each private school shall report to the
Division of Public and Behavioral Health of the Department of Health and Human
Services, on a form furnished by the Division, the exact number of pupils who
have:

(a) Who have completed the immunizations required by this section;
(b) For whom a statement of exemption has been received pursuant to NRS
394.193 or 394.194.

7. The certificate of immunization must be included in the pupil’s academic
or cumulative record and transferred as part of that record upon request.
Sec. 7. NRS 394.193 is hereby amended to read as follows:

394.193 1. A private school shall not refuse to enroll a child as a pupil because such child has not been immunized pursuant to NRS 394.192 if the parents or guardian of such child have submitted to the governing body a written statement indicating that their religious belief prohibits immunization of such child, which includes, without limitation, the name of the child and the school in which the child has been accepted for enrollment.

2. A written consent for the governing body to disclose the written statement to the Division of Public and Behavioral Health of the Department of Health and Human Services and the local health officer pursuant to section 6 of this act. An exemption pursuant to this section remains valid for the duration of the child's enrollment in the private school.

Sec. 8. NRS 394.194 is hereby amended to read as follows:

394.194 1. If the medical condition of a child will not permit the child to be immunized to the extent required by NRS 394.192, a written statement of this fact [signed by a licensed physician or advanced practice registered nurse and presented] that meets the requirements of this section and is submitted to the governing body by the parents or guardian of such child shall exempt such child from all or part of the provisions of NRS 394.192, as the case may be, for enrollment purposes:

(a) If the medical condition of the child is not permanent, for that school year;

(b) If the medical condition of the child is permanent, for the duration of the child's enrollment in the private school.

2. A written statement submitted pursuant to subsection 1 must:

(a) Be signed by a licensed physician, physician assistant or advanced practice registered nurse and by the parents or guardian of the child; and

(b) Include, without limitation, the name of the child and the school in which the child has been accepted for enrollment; and

(c) Be accompanied by written consent for the governing body to provide a copy of the written statement to the Division of Public and Behavioral Health of the Department of Health and Human Services and the local health officer pursuant to section 6 of this act.

3. A written statement for a child who suffers from a medical condition that is not permanent submitted to the governing body of a private school pursuant to subsection 1 must be resubmitted before the next school year, if applicable. If such a statement is not submitted and the child has not been immunized as required by NRS 394.192 before the next school year, the child must be excluded from school and may not be accepted for enrollment until the requirements of this section or NRS 394.192 are met. A child who is excluded from school pursuant to this section shall be deemed to be a neglected child for the purposes of NRS 432.097 to 432.130, inclusive, and chapter 432B of NRS.

Sec. 9. NRS 394.199 is hereby amended to read as follows:

394.199 Any parent or guardian who refuses to remove his or her child from the private school in which the child is enrolled when retention in school is prohibited under the provisions of NRS 394.192, 394.194, 394.196 or 394.198 is guilty of a misdemeanor.

Sec. 10. [NRS 239.010 is hereby amended to read as follows]

[NRS 239.010 1. Except as otherwise provided in this section and NRS 1.4682, 1.4687, 1A.110, 3.2203, 41.071, 49.095, 49.293, 62D.420, 62D.440, 62E.516, 62E.620, 62H.025, 62H.030, 62H.170, 62H.220, 62H.320, 75A.100, 75A.150, 76.160, 78.152, 80.113, 81.850, 82.183, 86.246, 86.54615, 87.515, 87.5413,
687A.115, 687C.010, 688C.230, 688C.480, 689A.696, 692A.117, 692C.190, 692C.3507, 692C.3536, 692C.3538, 692C.420, 693A.480, 693A.615, 696B.550, 696C.120, 703.196, 704B.320, 704B.325, 706.1725, 706A.230, 710.159, 711.600, and sections 2 and 6 of this act, sections 35, 38, 41 of chapter 478, Statutes of Nevada 2011 and section 2 of chapter 391, Statutes of Nevada 2013 and unless otherwise declared by law to be confidential, all public books and public records of a governmental entity must be open at all times during office hours to inspection by any person, and may be fully copied or an abstract or memorandum may be prepared from those public books and public records. Any such copies, abstracts or memoranda may be used to supply the general public with copies, abstracts or memora of the records or may be used in any other way to the advantage of the governmental entity or of the general public. This section does not supersede or in any manner affect the federal laws governing copyrights or enlarge, diminish or affect in any other manner the rights of a person in any written book or record which is copyrighted pursuant to federal law.

2. A governmental entity may not reject a book or record which is copyrighted solely because it is copyrighted.

3. A governmental entity that has legal custody or control of a public book or record shall not deny a request made pursuant to subsection 1 to inspect or copy or receive a copy of a public book or record on the basis that the requested public book or record contains information that is confidential if the governmental entity can redact, delete, conceal or separate the confidential information from the information included in the public book or record that is not otherwise confidential.

4. A person may request a copy of a public record in any medium in which the public record is readily available. An officer, employee or agent of a governmental entity who has legal custody or control of a public record:

(a) Shall not refuse to provide a copy of that public record in a readily available medium because the officer, employee or agent has already prepared or would prefer to provide the copy in a different medium.

(b) Except as otherwise provided in NRS 239.030, shall, upon request, prepare the copy of the public record and shall not require the person who has requested the copy to prepare the copy himself or herself. (Deleted by amendment.)

Sec. 10.5. The board of trustees of a school district or the governing body of a charter school or private school:

1. Shall maintain in the records of the school district, charter school or private school, as applicable, for the duration of the enrollment of the child to whom the statement pertains in the school district or school, as applicable:

(a) Any statement received pursuant to NRS 392.439 or 394.194 on or before July 1, 2019, concerning a permanent medical condition; and

(b) Any statement received pursuant to NRS 392.437 or 394.193 on or before July 1, 2019.

2. Shall not require the parent or guardian of a child for whom such a statement has been submitted to resubmit the statement.

Sec. 11. This act becomes effective on July 1, 2019.