

Executive Summary HB 2009

(2022 Session, as filed.)

Legislative Oversight of Vaccine Mandates on School Children

Overall Purpose

- ✓ Restore parents' authority over health care decision for their children
- ✓ Rein in overreach by the Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services (DHSS)

Elements of the Bill

- ◆ Restore legislative oversight over vaccine mandates. DHSS will no longer be allowed to mandate vaccines by rule, the legislature must add any mandates to statute. §§ 167.181.1, 210.003.1, 210.003.2(3)
- ◆ Remove government vaccine mandates from private schools. (Private schools can make their own rules.) §§ 167.181.1, 210.003.1
- ◆ Allow an exemption to vaccine mandates for immunity acquired through means other than vaccinations (e.g. naturally acquired from previous illness). §§ 167.181.2
- ◆ Brings statutes into compliance with Article I § 5 of the Missouri Constitution, which says, “no human authority can control or interfere with the rights of *conscience*,” by including a “**conscientious belief objection**” to the religious objection verbiage. §§ 167.181.3, 174.335, 210.003.2(2)(b), 210.003.3,
- ◆ Clarifies existing authority of parents to “object in writing” to mandated vaccines without extra-statutory annoyances from local health authorities. (Local health departments have been requiring more than the statutes require of parents seeking to use their statutory authority to opt out of vaccine mandates.) §§ 167.181.3, 174.335.1
- ◆ Requires DHSS to develop an informational brochure that explains exemption options. § 167.186
- ◆ Codifies the Religious or Conscientious exemption form. § 167.186.5
- ◆ Adds “**conscientious belief objection**” to the religious objection verbiage for public schools of higher learning to comply with Article I § 5 of the Missouri Constitution. § 174.335.1
- ◆ Removes privately owned residential properties from the definition of “on-campus housing” for the purpose of mandating the meningitis vaccine. § 174.335.4
- ◆ Prevents parents' decision not to vaccinate their children from being used as a contributing factor in child neglect or abuse charges. §§ 210.110(1), 210.110(12). 210.115.4
- ◆ Doctors can not be punished by the *state board of registration for the healing arts* for issuing medical exemptions to mandated vaccines. §§ 334.099.1(1), 334.100.1(2)