



Alaska State Legislature

Senate Majority Web: www.akrepublicans.org

Sponsor: Labor & Commerce
Current Version: SB 251
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Fact Sheet for: Senate Bill 251

Short Title: POSTSEC. STUDENT MENINGITIS IMMUNIZATION

Summary:

- Exempts postsecondary educational institutions from the requirement to distribute information regarding meningitis to students who do not intend to reside in campus housing.

Benefits:

- Reduces unnecessary paperwork for students and administrators in “day-school” type programs.
- Ensures that students who will be living in school residential facilities are advised of related health risks prior to taking up residence there.

Background:

- In 2005, the passage of House Bill 185 required postsecondary schools to distribute information to prospective students regarding meningitis, and to maintain records of student signatures confirming receipt of the information. This was deemed necessary because the close proximity of students makes dormitories an ideal breeding ground for meningitis bacteria. HB 185 had the unintended consequence of requiring postsecondary schools without dormitories to distribute information and collect signatures even with the reduced threat of meningitis in a non-residential setting.