

HB 1584-FN - AS AMENDED BY THE HOUSE

12Feb2026... 0324h

2026 SESSION

26-3239

05/08

HOUSE BILL

1584-FN

AN ACT

directing the department of health and human services to provide notice of medical and religious exemptions from immunization requirements and relative to the form of such exemption.

SPONSORS:

Rep. Potenza, Straf. 19; Rep. Kofalt, Hills. 32; Rep. Layon, Rock. 13; Rep. Mazur, Hills. 44

COMMITTEE:

Health, Human Services and Elderly Affairs

AMENDED ANALYSIS

This bill directs the department of health and human services to provide notice of medical and religious exemptions from immunization requirements and provides that any written signed statement attesting to the religious objection shall be sufficient.

Explanation:

Matter added to current law appears in ***bold italics***.

Matter removed from current law appears ~~[in brackets and struckthrough.]~~

Matter which is either (a) all new or (b) repealed and reenacted appears in regular type.

STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

In the Year of Our Lord Two Thousand Twenty-Six

AN ACT directing the department of health and human services to provide notice of medical and religious exemptions from immunization requirements and relative to the form of such exemption.

Be it Enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court convened:

1 1 New Paragraph; Notice of Medical and Religious Exemptions. Amend RSA 141-C by inserting
2 after section 20-f the following new section:

3 141-C:20-g Notice of Medical and Religious Exemptions.

4 I. Any communication, publication, posting, advertisement, website, social media post,
5 printed material, or other location where the department of health and human services promotes
6 vaccination or immunization shall prominently display, "MEDICAL AND RELIGIOUS
7 EXEMPTIONS ARE AVAILABLE UNDER NEW HAMPSHIRE LAW" in bold, clearly noticeable,
8 starred print on the front or top portion of the material.

9 II. This notice shall be at least as prominent as the main headline or promotional text
10 regarding the vaccination or immunization and shall not be placed solely in footnotes, disclaimers, or
11 links.

12 III. The department of health and human services shall adopt rules under RSA 541-A to
13 implement this section.

14 2 New Paragraph; Immunization Required for School Attendance; Grounds and Procedure for
15 Exemption. Amend RSA 141-C:20-c, II to read as follows:

16 II. A parent or legal guardian objects to immunization because of religious beliefs. The
17 parent or legal guardian shall sign a form stating that the child has not been immunized because of
18 religious beliefs; ***provided however, the parent or legal guardian shall not be required to use
19 or sign any specific form provided or posted by the department of health and human
20 services and may instead provide any written signed statement attesting to the religious
21 objection.***

22 3 Penalty. Amend RSA 141-C:21 to read as follows:

23 141-C:21 Penalty.

24 I. Any person who shall violate, disobey, refuse, omit or neglect to comply with any of the
25 provisions of RSA 141-C, or of the rules adopted pursuant to it, shall be guilty of a misdemeanor if a
26 natural person, or guilty of a felony if any other person.

27 II. ***Any officer, employee, or agent of the department of health and human services
28 who authorizes, approves, or distributes promotional material regarding vaccination or
29 immunization in violation of RSA 141-C:20-g shall be reported to the commissioner of the***

1 *department of health and human services, who shall ensure appropriate disciplinary or*
2 *corrective action under RSA 21-I and any applicable personnel rules.*

3 4 Effective Date. This act shall take effect 30 days after its passage.

HB 1584-FN- FISCAL NOTE
AS AMENDED BY THE HOUSE (AMENDMENT #2026-0324h)

AN ACT directing the department of health and human services to provide notice of medical and religious exemptions from immunization requirements and relative to the form of such exemption.

FISCAL IMPACT: This bill does not provide funding, nor does it authorize new positions.

Estimated State Impact				
	FY 2026	FY 2027	FY 2028	FY 2029
Revenue	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
<i>Revenue Fund(s)</i>				
Expenditures*	\$0	\$43,500	\$0	\$0
<i>Funding Source(s)</i>	General Fund			
Appropriations*	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
<i>Funding Source(s)</i>	None			

*Expenditure = Cost of bill

*Appropriation = Authorized funding to cover cost of bill

METHODOLOGY:

This bill requires the Department of Health and Human Services to provide notice of medical and religious exemptions from immunization requirements. The Department assumes that in the first year of implementation, it will need a part-time medical health services specialist to communicate the changes to the several hundred impacted providers. The cost for this position is estimated to be \$43,500. The Department assumes it will take up to nine months to fully comply with the bill's requirements, including the time needed to develop and implement administrative rules.

AGENCIES CONTACTED:

Department of Health and Human Services