

HB 358 - AS INTRODUCED

2025 SESSION

25-0441

05/11

HOUSE BILL **358**

AN ACT relative to exemption from immunization requirements on the basis of religious belief.

SPONSORS: Rep. Kofalt, Hills. 32; Rep. Comtois, Belk. 7; Rep. DeVito, Rock. 8; Rep. Layon, Rock. 13; Rep. Wheeler, Hills. 33; Rep. Wherry, Hills. 13; Sen. Avard, Dist 12; Sen. Innis, Dist 7

COMMITTEE: Health, Human Services and Elderly Affairs

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ANALYSIS

This bill provides that a parent or legal guardian may claim an exemption from childhood immunization requirements on the basis of religious belief by providing a signed statement to that effect. The bill removes the statutory reference to a form used for such purpose.

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Matter which is either (a) all new or (b) repealed and reenacted appears in regular type.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

AN ACT                   relative to exemption from immunization requirements on the basis of religious belief.

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

1           1 Communicable Disease; Exemption Based on Religious Belief. Amend RSA 141-C:20-c to read  
2 as follows:

3           141-C:20-c Exemptions.

4           A child shall be exempt from immunization if:

5           I. A physician licensed under RSA 329, or a physician exempted under RSA 329:21, III,  
6 certifies that immunization against a particular disease may be detrimental to the child's health.  
7 The exemption shall exist only for the length of time, in the opinion of the physician, such  
8 immunization would be detrimental to the child. An exemption from immunization for one disease  
9 shall not affect other required immunizations.

10           II. A parent or legal guardian objects to immunization because of religious beliefs. [~~The  
11 parent or legal guardian shall sign a form stating that the child has not been immunized because of  
12 religious beliefs.~~] ***The exemption shall require no more information than a statement that  
13 the child has not been immunized because of religious belief pursuant to RSA 141-C:20, II  
14 and a signature by the parent or legal guardian.***

15           2 Effective Date. This act shall take effect 60 days after its passage.