

HB 1584-FN - AS INTRODUCED

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

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. The bill also directs the department to provide an annual compliance report to the legislature.

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Matter which is either (a) all new or (b) repealed and reenacted appears in regular type.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 or distributes promotional material regarding vaccination or
29 immunization without including the notice required under RSA 141-C:20-g shall be subject***

1 *to a civil penalty not to exceed \$1,000 for each violation. Each separate communication or*
2 *publication without the required notice shall constitute a separate violation. Civil*
3 *penalties collected under this paragraph shall be deposited in the general fund.*

4 4 New Section; Annual Compliance Report. Amend RSA 141-C by inserting after section 21-a
5 the following new section:

6 141-C:21-b Annual Compliance Report.

7 I. On or before December 31 of each year, the department of health and human services
8 shall submit a written report to the chairpersons of the house and senate health and human services
9 committees and the legislative oversight committee on health and human services.

10 II. The report shall list all promotional campaigns and materials produced or disseminated
11 during the prior state fiscal year, indicate whether the required notice under RSA 141-C:20-g was
12 included, and state any violations and civil penalties assessed under RSA 141-C:21, II.

13 III. The report shall be a public document and posted on the department's website.

14 5 Effective Date. This act shall take effect 30 days after its passage.

**HB 1584-FN- FISCAL NOTE
AS INTRODUCED**

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	\$43,000	\$45,500	\$47,500
<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. Instances of non-compliance will result in civil penalties not to exceed \$1,000 per violation. The Department assumes it will need a part-time medical health services specialist to communicate the changes to providers and produce the annual compliance report required by the bill. The cost for this position is estimated to be \$43,000 in FY27, \$45,500 in FY28, and \$47,500 in FY29. The Department notes that it is unclear what entity will be responsible for assessing the civil penalties established in the bill.

AGENCIES CONTACTED:

Department of Health and Human Services