

## SB278 INTRODUCED



1 SB278  
2 ARDGPS7-1  
3 By Senator Singleton  
4 RFD: Banking and Insurance  
5 First Read: 10-Feb-26



## 4 SYNOPSIS:

5           This bill would require both private health  
6           benefit plans and Medicaid to pay for influenza  
7           vaccinations that are administered by a licensed health  
8           care provider.

9           This bill would also recognize that the required  
10          vaccination coverage does not affect the right of  
11          individuals, parents, or legal guardians to make the  
12          decision concerning whether to accept or decline a  
13          vaccination.

## 16 A BILL

## 17 TO BE ENTITLED

## 18 AN ACT

19  
20          Relating to health insurance; to require health benefit  
21          plans to pay or reimburse for influenza vaccinations that are  
22          administered by a licensed health care provider; and to  
23          require the Alabama Medicaid Agency to provide the same  
24          coverage for beneficiaries.

25 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA:

26          Section 1. (a) The Legislature finds that:

27               (1) Lack of insurance coverage may limit access to  
28          influenza vaccines, especially in rural or underserved



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communities;

(2) At the same time, a decision to receive an influenza vaccination is personal and should be made by an individual in consultation with a licensed health care provider;

(3) Parents or legal guardians are the primary decision-makers concerning the medical care of their children; and

(4) Access to influenza vaccines should be enhanced by requiring consistent insurance and Medicaid coverage while preserving parental choice and individual medical decision-making.

(b) For the purposes of this section, the following terms have the following meanings:

(1) ADMINISTRATION COSTS. Costs associated with the delivery of an influenza vaccine, including counseling, health care provider fees, and necessary supplies.

(2) COMMUNITY-BASED HEALTH CLINIC. A federally-qualified health center, rural health clinic, county or municipal health department, nonprofit clinic, or other health care facility licensed pursuant to Article 2, Chapter 21 of Title 22, Code of Alabama 1975.

(3) COVERAGE. Payment or reimbursement under a health benefit plan for a health care service.

(4) HEALTH BENEFIT PLAN. a. Any plan, policy, or contract issued, delivered, or renewed in this state that provides health coverage that includes payment for hospitalization, physician care, treatment, surgery, therapy,



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drugs, equipment, and any other medical expense, regardless of the following:

1. Whether the plan, policy, or contract is provided by a health care insurer, health maintenance organization established under Chapter 21A of Title 27, Code of Alabama 1975, health care services plan established under Chapter 20 of Title 10A, Code of Alabama 1975, a nonprofit agricultural organization that provides health benefits to its members under Chapter 33 of Title 2, Code of Alabama 1975, or any other entity that pays for, purchases, or reimburses for health care services.

2. Whether the plan is for a group or an individual.

b. The term does not include accident-only, specified disease, individual hospital indemnity, credit, dental-only, Medicare supplement, long-term care, disability income, or other limited benefit health insurance policies, or coverage issued as supplemental to liability insurance, workers' compensation, or automobile medical payment insurance.

(5) HOSPITAL. A hospital licensed pursuant to Article 2, Chapter 21 of Title 22, Code of Alabama 1975.

(6) LICENSED HEALTH CARE PROVIDER. A physician, physician assistant, certified registered nurse practitioner, or pharmacist who is licensed and certified pursuant to Title 34, Code of Alabama 1975, or an individual who administers vaccinations under the standing order of any licensed physician.

(7) SCHOOL-BASED HEALTH CLINIC. A health clinic located at or affiliated with a public or private school which has the



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85 purpose of providing health care services to students and is  
86 operated by or in partnership with a licensed health care  
87 provider, hospital, or health care delivery system.

88 (c) (1) A health benefit plan shall provide coverage for  
89 an influenza vaccine when administered by a licensed health  
90 care provider.

91 (2) Coverage shall include the vaccine and  
92 administration costs.

93 (3) Coverage may not be denied, limited, or restricted  
94 based on the location where the vaccine is administered,  
95 including, but not limited to, a physician's office, hospital  
96 or hospital outpatient department, pharmacy, community-based  
97 health clinic, or school-based health clinic.

98 (d) The coverage required by this section applies  
99 solely to influenza vaccines, and nothing herein shall be  
100 construed to:

101 (1) Apply to any other vaccine;

102 (2) Amend, expand, repeal, or otherwise affect existing  
103 school immunization requirements or exemptions established  
104 under Chapter 30 of Title 16, Code of Alabama 1975;

105 (3) Limit the right of an individual to accept or  
106 decline an influenza vaccine; or

107 (4) Interfere with parental or legal guardian consent  
108 requirements.

109 (e) The Department of Insurance of the State of Alabama  
110 may adopt rules to implement this section.

111 Section 2. (a) The Alabama Medicaid Agency shall pay  
112 for an influenza vaccination for any individual who is



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113 accepted for participation in Medicaid.

114 (b) Payment shall be made according to the coverage  
115 terms provided in Section 1 without any additional requirement  
116 that would discourage or restrict access, including, but not  
117 limited to, cost-sharing, prior authorization, or a site of  
118 service requirement.

119 (c) The Alabama Medicaid Agency may adopt rules to  
120 implement this section.

121 Section 3. This act shall become effective on August 1,  
122 2026.