

SB278 INTRODUCED



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



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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.

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16 A BILL

17 TO BE ENTITLED

18 AN ACT

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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



29 communities;

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

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

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

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

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

46 (2) COMMUNITY-BASED HEALTH CLINIC. A
47 federally-qualified health center, rural health clinic, county
48 or municipal health department, nonprofit clinic, or other
49 health care facility licensed pursuant to Article 2, Chapter
50 21 of Title 22, Code of Alabama 1975.

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

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

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

59 1. Whether the plan, policy, or contract is provided by
60 a health care insurer, health maintenance organization
61 established under Chapter 21A of Title 27, Code of Alabama
62 1975, health care services plan established under Chapter 20
63 of Title 10A, Code of Alabama 1975, a nonprofit agricultural
64 organization that provides health benefits to its members
65 under Chapter 33 of Title 2, Code of Alabama 1975, or any
66 other entity that pays for, purchases, or reimburses for
67 health care services.

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

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

75 (5) HOSPITAL. A hospital licensed pursuant to Article
76 2, Chapter 21 of Title 22, Code of Alabama 1975.

77 (6) LICENSED HEALTH CARE PROVIDER. A physician,
78 physician assistant, certified registered nurse practitioner,
79 or pharmacist who is licensed and certified pursuant to Title
80 34, Code of Alabama 1975, or an individual who administers
81 vaccinations under the standing order of any licensed
82 physician.

83 (7) SCHOOL-BASED HEALTH CLINIC. A health clinic located
84 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.