

By: Senator(s) Chaney

To: Education; Public Health  
and Welfare

SENATE BILL NO. 2700

1 AN ACT TO DIRECT LOCAL SCHOOL DISTRICTS, NONPUBLIC SCHOOLS,  
2 CHARTER SCHOOLS, AGRICULTURAL SCHOOLS AND HOME SCHOOLS TO PROVIDE  
3 PARENTS WITH APPROPRIATE INFORMATION ABOUT MENINGOCOCCAL DISEASE;  
4 TO DIRECT THE STATE BOARD OF HEALTH TO DEVELOP APPROPRIATE  
5 INFORMATION ABOUT THIS DISEASE TO BE DISTRIBUTED BY THE STATE  
6 DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION; AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

7 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MISSISSIPPI:

8 **SECTION 1.** Local school boards shall ensure that all public  
9 schools and agricultural high schools provide parents and  
10 guardians with information about meningococcal disease and the  
11 effectiveness of vaccination against meningococcal disease at the  
12 beginning of every school year. This information shall include  
13 the causes, symptoms and means by which meningococcal disease is  
14 spread and the places where parents and guardians may obtain  
15 additional information and vaccinations for their children.  
16 Nothing in this section shall be construed to require a local  
17 school board or school to provide or purchase vaccine against  
18 meningococcal disease.

19 (2) Nonpublic schools shall provide parents and guardians  
20 with information about meningococcal disease and the effectiveness  
21 of vaccination against meningococcal disease at the beginning of  
22 every school year. This information shall include the causes,  
23 symptoms and the means by which meningococcal disease is spread  
24 and the places where parents and guardians may obtain additional  
25 information and vaccinations for their children. Nothing in this  
26 section shall be construed to require a nonpublic school to  
27 provide or purchase vaccine against meningococcal disease.

28 (3) The governing body of a public charter school shall  
29 ensure that the public charter school provides parents and

30 guardians with information about meningococcal disease at the  
31 beginning of every school year. This information shall include  
32 the causes, symptoms and the means by which meningococcal disease  
33 is spread and the places where parents and guardians may obtain  
34 additional information and vaccinations for their children.  
35 Nothing in this section shall be construed to require a public  
36 charter school or its governing body to provide or purchase  
37 vaccine against meningococcal disease.

38 (4) The State Department of Education shall provide annually  
39 to home schools, with which they have contact, information about  
40 meningococcal disease and the effectiveness of vaccination against  
41 meningococcal disease at the beginning of every school year. This  
42 information shall include the causes, symptoms and the means by  
43 which meningococcal disease is spread and the places where parents  
44 and guardians may obtain additional information and vaccinations  
45 for their children. This information may be provided  
46 electronically or on the department's Web site. Nothing in this  
47 section shall be construed to require the Department of Education  
48 to provide or purchase vaccine against meningococcal disease.

49 (5) The State Board of Health shall develop and make  
50 available to the Department of Education educational materials  
51 appropriate for distribution so that the information required by  
52 this section can be provided to parents and guardians. The  
53 Department of Education may provide this information, at its  
54 discretion, electronically, on its Web site. Nothing in this  
55 section shall be construed to require the Department of Education  
56 to provide or purchase vaccine against meningococcal disease.

57 **SECTION 2.** This act shall take effect and be in force from  
58 and after July 1, 2006.