

By: Senator(s) Fillingane

To: Public Health and Welfare

SENATE BILL NO. 2220  
(As Sent to Governor)

1 AN ACT TO AUTHORIZE THE STATE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH TO APPLY  
2 FOR FEDERAL GRANTS AND TO PROVIDE AN INFLUENZA VACCINATION SCHOOL  
3 PROGRAM IN MISSISSIPPI FOR SCHOOL-AGED CHILDREN 5 THROUGH 18 YEARS  
4 OF AGE AND TO PROVIDE CERTAIN STANDARDS FOR THE PROGRAM; AND FOR  
5 RELATED PURPOSES.

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

7 **SECTION 1.** The State of Mississippi finds as follows:

8 (a) Influenza is a contagious respiratory illness  
9 caused by influenza viruses. The best way to help prevent  
10 seasonal influenza is by getting a vaccination each year.

11 (b) Every year in the United States, on average, more  
12 than two hundred thousand (200,000) people are hospitalized from  
13 influenza-related complications and about thirty-six thousand  
14 (36,000) people, mostly the elderly, die from influenza-related  
15 causes.

16 (c) The United States Centers for Disease Control and  
17 Prevention (CDC) Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices  
18 recommends seasonal influenza vaccinations for all eligible  
19 persons in the United States, including eligible children aged six  
20 (6) months through eighteen (18) years of age.

21 (d) Children and young adults five (5) years to  
22 nineteen (19) years of age are three (3) to four (4) times more  
23 likely to be infected with influenza than adults.

24 (e) School-aged children are the population group most  
25 responsible for transmission of contagious respiratory viruses,  
26 including influenza.



27           (f) The elderly are the next most vulnerable population  
28 to severe illness from influenza due to weaker immune response to  
29 vaccination.

30           (g) School-located influenza vaccination programs may  
31 be an effective way to vaccinate children while reducing  
32 transmission and infection rates to the larger community and at  
33 the same time reducing rates of school absenteeism due to children  
34 being infected with influenza.

35           (h) Schools can be an effective infrastructure tool to  
36 improve pandemic planning by identifying known and effective  
37 pandemic vaccination centers.

38           (i) Although experience has demonstrated the  
39 feasibility and success of school-located influenza vaccination  
40 programs in vaccinating children, funding and logistical issues,  
41 particularly involving the delivery of vaccine to children with  
42 private insurance coverage, are issues with program  
43 sustainability.

44           (j) Given the significant fiscal challenges ahead for  
45 Mississippi, it is important for the Legislature to ensure that  
46 state agencies maximize their opportunity to obtain additional  
47 federal funds.

48           **SECTION 2.** Funding for School-Located Influenza Vaccination  
49 Programs.

50           (1) It is the intent of the Legislature that the State  
51 Department of Health apply for federal grants and appropriations  
52 under the federal Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act  
53 (PPACA), Public Law 111-148, to fund, build infrastructure,  
54 promote and expand school-located influenza vaccination programs  
55 to provide seasonal influenza vaccinations for school-aged  
56 children. The agency may seek grants and appropriations from any  
57 source.

58           (2) The State Department of Health shall make information  
59 regarding federal grant and appropriations opportunities under



60 PPACA available to local government agencies, local public health  
61 departments, school districts, and state and local nonprofit  
62 organizations via the agency's website.

63         **SECTION 3.** This act shall take effect and be in force from  
64 and after July 1, 2011.

