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HOUSE BILL 522

52ND LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - FIRST SESSION, 2015

INTRODUCED BY

Deborah A. Armstrong

AN ACT

RELATING TO PUBLIC HEALTH; AMENDING A SECTION OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH ACT TO REMOVE THE IMMUNIZATION EXEMPTION ALLOWED FOR NONDENOMINATIONAL RELIGIOUS BELIEFS.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO:

SECTION 1. Section 24-5-3 NMSA 1978 (being Laws 1959, Chapter 329, Section 3, as amended) is amended to read:

"24-5-3. EXEMPTION FROM IMMUNIZATION.--

A. Any minor child through ~~his~~ the child's parent or guardian may file with the health authority charged with the duty of enforcing the immunization laws:

(1) a certificate of a duly licensed physician stating that the physical condition of the child is such that immunization would seriously endanger the life or health of the child; or

.200228.1

underscored material = new
~~bracketed material~~ = delete

underscoring material = new
~~[bracketed material] = delete~~

1 (2) [~~affidavits~~] an affidavit or written
2 affirmation from an officer of a recognized religious
3 denomination that [~~such~~] the child's parents or guardians are
4 bona fide members of a denomination whose religious teaching
5 requires reliance upon prayer or spiritual means alone for
6 healing [~~or~~

7 ~~(3) affidavits or written affirmation from his~~
8 ~~parent or legal guardian that his religious beliefs, held~~
9 ~~either individually or jointly with others, do not permit the~~
10 ~~administration of vaccine or other immunizing agent].~~

11 B. Upon filing and approval of such certificate,
12 [~~affidavits~~] affidavit or affirmation, the child is exempt from
13 the legal requirement of immunization for a period not to
14 exceed nine months on the basis of any one certificate,
15 [~~affidavits~~] affidavit or affirmation."