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EDUCATION IMMUNIZATION MODIFICATIONS
2021 GENERAL SESSION
STATE OF UTAH
Chief Sponsor: Mark A. Strong
Senate Sponsor: Michael S. Kennedy
LONG TITLE
General Description:
This bill ensures the availability of vaccination exemptions in higher education.
Highlighted Provisions:
This bill:
 prohibits the Utah Board of Higher Education and institutions within the higher
education system from requiring proof of vaccination unless certain vaccination
exemptions are available; and
 prohibits higher education institutions and local education agencies that offer both
remote and in-person learning from requiring a vaccine-exempt student to
participate remotely rather than in-person.
Money Appropriated in this Bill:
None
Other Special Clauses:
None
Utah Code Sections Affected:
AMENDS:
53B-3-103, as last amended by Laws of Utah 2014, Chapter 298
53G-9-303, as renumbered and amended by Laws of Utah 2018, Chapter 3
ENACTS:
53B-2-112, Utah Code Annotated 1953

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30	Section 1. Section 53B-2-112 is enacted to read:
31	<u>53B-2-112.</u> Vaccination requirements Exemptions.
32	(1) An institution of higher education described in Section 53B-2-101 may not require
33	proof of vaccination as a condition for enrollment or attendance unless the institution allows
34	for the following exemptions:
35	(a) a medical exemption if the student provides to the institution a statement that the
36	claimed exemption is for a medical reason; and
37	(b) a personal exemption if the student provides to the institution a statement that the
38	claimed exemption is for a personal or religious belief.
39	(2) An institution that offers both remote and in-person learning options may not deny
40	a student who is exempt from a requirement to receive a vaccine under Subsection (1) to
41	participate in an in-person learning option based upon the student's vaccination status.
42	(3) Subsections (1) and (2) do not apply to a student studying in a medical setting at an
43	institution of higher education.
44	(4) Nothing in this section restricts a state or local health department from acting under
45	applicable law to contain the spread of an infectious disease.
46	Section 2. Section 53B-3-103 is amended to read:
47	53B-3-103. Power of board to adopt rules and enact regulations.
48	(1) The board may enact regulations governing the conduct of university and college
49	students, faculty, and employees.
50	(2) (a) The board may:
51	(i) enact and authorize higher education institutions to enact traffic, parking, and
52	related regulations governing all individuals on campuses and other facilities owned or
53	controlled by the institutions or the board; and
54	(ii) acknowledging that the Legislature has the authority to regulate, by law, firearms at
55	higher education institutions:
56	(A) authorize higher education institutions to establish no more than one secure area at
57	each institution as a hearing room as prescribed in Section 76-8-311.1, but not otherwise

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58	restrict the lawful possession or carrying of firearms; and
59	(B) authorize a higher education institution to make a rule that allows a resident of a
60	dormitory located at the institution to request only roommates who are not licensed to carry a
61	concealed firearm under Section 53-5-704 or 53-5-705.
62	(b) In addition to the requirements and penalty prescribed in Subsections
63	76-8-311.1(3), (4), (5), and (6), the board shall make rules to ensure that:
64	(i) reasonable means such as mechanical, electronic, x-ray, or similar devices are used
65	to detect firearms, ammunition, or dangerous weapons contained in the personal property of or
66	on the person of any individual attempting to enter a secure area hearing room;
67	(ii) an individual required or requested to attend a hearing in a secure area hearing
68	room is notified in writing of the requirements related to entering a secured area hearing room
69	under this Subsection (2)(b) and Section 76-8-311.1;
70	(iii) the restriction of firearms, ammunition, or dangerous weapons in the secure area
71	hearing room is in effect only during the time the secure area hearing room is in use for
72	hearings and for a reasonable time before and after its use; and
73	(iv) reasonable space limitations are applied to the secure area hearing room as
74	warranted by the number of individuals involved in a typical hearing.
75	(c) (i) The board may not require proof of vaccination as a condition for enrollment or
76	attendance within the system of higher education unless the board allows for the following
77	exemptions:
78	(A) a medical exemption if the student provides to the institution a statement that the
79	claimed exemption is for a medical reason; and
80	(B) a personal exemption if the student provides to the institution a statement that the
81	claimed exemption is for a personal or religious belief.
82	(ii) An institution that offers both remote and in-person learning options may not deny
83	a student who is exempt from a requirement to receive a vaccine under Subsection (2)(c)(i) to
84	participate in an in-person learning option based upon the student's vaccination status.
85	(iii) Subsections (2)(c)(i) and (ii) do not apply to a student studying in a medical setting

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86	at an institution of higher education.
87	(iv) Nothing in this section restricts a state or local health department from acting
88	under applicable law to contain the spread of an infectious disease.
89	(3) The board shall enact regulations that require all testimony be given under oath
90	during an employee grievance hearing for a non-faculty employee of an institution of higher
91	education if the grievance hearing relates to the non-faculty employee's:
92	(a) demotion; or
93	(b) termination.
94	(4) The board and institutions may enforce these rules and regulations in any
95	reasonable manner, including the assessment of fees, fines, and forfeitures, the collection of
96	which may be by withholding from money owed the violator, the imposition of probation,
97	suspension, or expulsion from the institution, the revocation of privileges, the refusal to issue
98	certificates, degrees, and diplomas, through judicial process or any reasonable combination of
99	these alternatives.
100	Section 3. Section 53G-9-303 is amended to read:
101	53G-9-303. Grounds for exemption from required vaccines Renewal.
102	(1) A student is exempt from the requirement to receive a vaccine required under
103	Section 53G-9-305 if the student qualifies for a medical or personal exemption from the
104	vaccination under Subsection (2) or (3).
105	(2) A student qualifies for a medical exemption from a vaccination required under
106	Section 53G-9-305 if the student's legally responsible individual provides to the student's
107	school:
108	(a) a completed vaccination exemption form; and
109	(b) a written notice signed by a licensed health care provider stating that, due to the
110	physical condition of the student, administration of the vaccine would endanger the student's
111	life or health.
112	(3) A student qualifies for a personal exemption from a vaccination required under
113	Section 53G-9-305 if the student's legally responsible individual provides to the student's

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school a completed vaccination exemption form, stating that the student is exempt from thevaccination because of a personal or religious belief.

- (4) (a) A vaccination exemption form submitted under this section is valid for as longas the student remains at the school to which the form first is presented.
- (b) If the student changes schools before the student is old enough to enroll in
 kindergarten, the vaccination exemption form accepted as valid at the student's previous school
 is valid until the earlier of the day on which:
- 121 (i) the student enrolls in kindergarten; or
- 122 (ii) the student turns six years old.

(c) If the student changes schools after the student is old enough to enroll in
kindergarten but before the student is eligible to enroll in grade 7, the vaccination exemption
form accepted as valid at the student's previous school is valid until the earlier of the day on

- 126 which:
- 127 (i) the student enrolls in grade 7; or
- 128 (ii) the student turns 12 years old.

(d) If the student changes schools after the student is old enough to enroll in grade 7,
the vaccination exemption form accepted as valid at the student's previous school is valid until
the student completes grade 12.

(e) Notwithstanding Subsections (4)(b) and (c), a vaccination exemption form obtained
through completion of the online education module created in Section 26-7-9 is valid for at

134 least two years.

135 (5) An LEA that offers both remote and in-person learning options may not deny a

136 student who is exempt from a requirement to receive a vaccine under Subsection (1) to

137 participate in an in-person learning option based upon the student's vaccination status.

138 (6) Nothing in this section restricts a state or local health department from acting under
 139 applicable law to contain the spread of an infectious disease.