

1-1 By: Sparks, Hughes S.B. No. 2119
1-2 (In the Senate - Filed March 10, 2025; March 24, 2025, read
1-3 first time and referred to Committee on Health & Human Services;
1-4 April 16, 2025, reported adversely, with favorable Committee
1-5 Substitute by the following vote: Yeas 6, Nays 3; April 16, 2025,
1-6 sent to printer.)

1-7	COMMITTEE VOTE				
1-8		Yea	Nay	Absent	PNV
1-9	Kolkhorst	X			
1-10	Perry	X			
1-11	Blanco		X		
1-12	Cook		X		
1-13	Hall	X			
1-14	Hancock	X			
1-15	Hughes	X			
1-16	Miles		X		
1-17	Sparks	X			

1-18 COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE FOR S.B. No. 2119 By: Sparks

1-19 A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
1-20 AN ACT

1-21 relating to an exemption from certain immunization requirements for
1-22 medical and veterinary students.

1-23 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

1-24 SECTION 1. Section 161.0041(a), Health and Safety Code, is
1-25 amended to read as follows:

1-26 (a) A person claiming an exemption from a required
1-27 immunization based on reasons of conscience, including a religious
1-28 belief, under Section 161.004 or 161.0053 of this code, Section
1-29 38.001, 51.9192, or 51.933, Education Code, or Section 42.043,
1-30 Human Resources Code, must complete an affidavit on a form provided
1-31 by the department stating the reason for the exemption. This
1-32 subsection does not apply to a person claiming the exemption using
1-33 the Internet-based process under Section 51.9192(d-3), Education
1-34 Code.

1-35 SECTION 2. Subchapter A, Chapter 161, Health and Safety
1-36 Code, is amended by adding Section 161.0053 to read as follows:

1-37 Sec. 161.0053. IMMUNIZATION EXEMPTION FOR MEDICAL OR
1-38 VETERINARY STUDENT. (a) In this section:

1-39 (1) "Institution of higher education" has the meaning
1-40 assigned by Section 61.003, Education Code.

1-41 (2) "Medical school" means:

1-42 (A) a medical school as defined by Section
1-43 61.501, Education Code; or

1-44 (B) any other institution of higher education, or
1-45 school, department, or college of an institution of higher
1-46 education, that awards medical degrees.

1-47 (3) "School of veterinary medicine" means any school,
1-48 department, or college of an institution of higher education that
1-49 awards veterinary medicine degrees.

1-50 (b) Notwithstanding Section 51.933, Education Code, or any
1-51 other law, a student enrolled in a medical school or school of
1-52 veterinary medicine may not be required to receive an immunization
1-53 as a prerequisite to enrollment or participation in a course
1-54 offered by the medical school or school of veterinary medicine if
1-55 the student submits to the school's admitting official:

1-56 (1) an affidavit signed by the student stating the
1-57 student declines immunization for reasons of conscience, including
1-58 a religious belief; or

1-59 (2) an affidavit or certificate signed by a physician
1-60 licensed to practice medicine in the United States stating, in the

physician's opinion, the required immunization would be injurious to the health and well-being of the student.

(c) An affidavit or certificate submitted under Subsection (b) must be submitted to the admitting official not later than the 90th day after the date the affidavit or certificate is notarized. An affidavit submitted under Subsection (b)(1) must be on a form described by Section 161.0041.

(d) A student who has not received an immunization required by a medical school or school of veterinary medicine for a reason described by Subsection (b) may not be excluded from school during a public health disaster or emergency declared by the commissioner of state health services because of the student's immunization status.

SECTION 3. Section 161.0053, Health and Safety Code, as added by this Act, applies beginning with the 2025-2026 academic year.

SECTION 4. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this Act takes effect September 1, 2025.

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