DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

Statutory Alignment with Evidence-Based Immunization Guidelines

SF 4416 (WIKLUND)

Overview

- Minnesota's school, childcare, and post-secondary immunization requirements are established in Minnesota Statutes §§ 121A.15 and 135A.14. These laws ensure that children and students are appropriately immunized to enroll and remain enrolled in educational settings, while allowing medical and non-medical exemptions as provided in statute.
- Historically, Minnesota's statutory framework relied heavily on recommendations from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP), which were broadly aligned with other major medical organizations, including the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) and the American Academy of Family Physicians (AAFP).
- Recent structural and procedural changes at the federal ACIP level have created uncertainty and potential conflicts within Minnesota's statutory framework. These unprecedented changes create the potential for statutory conflict, administrative deadlock, and confusion for schools, childcare providers, families, and state agencies. Without clarification, Minnesota could face situations where conflicting standards make it difficult to provide clear enrollment guidance.

What the Proposal Does

- Ensures Minnesota's immunization requirements remain clear, stable, and evidence based.
- Updates statute to preserve Minnesota's reliance on national medical guidance while allowing flexibility if recommendations diverge.
- The Commissioner remains constrained by additional statutory criteria when adding or removing vaccine requirements.