

SENATE No. 837

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

In the Year Two Thousand Nine

An Act relative to voluntary school based influenza prevention pilot program..

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:

1 SECTION 1. A. Notwithstanding any general or special law to the contrary, and subject
2 to appropriation, the Department of Health shall establish a school-based influenza vaccination
3 pilot program. Participation in the program shall be voluntary on the part of the school district
4 and shall be administered with the consent of the student's parents or legal guardian. In
5 implementing this program, the department shall maximize the use of influenza vaccine available
6 through the federal Vaccines for Children Program for eligible children as well as other federal
7 and state resources for influenza vaccine. The Department may seek, receive, and spend money
8 received through an appropriation, grant, donation, or reimbursement from any public or private
9 source to implement the pilot program.

10 SECTION 2. Upon completing the program, the department shall submit a written report
11 on its findings and recommendations to the Committee on Health Care Financing. The report
12 shall include the following:

13 (1) An assessment of the benefits of establishing school-based influenza vaccination
14 programs; and

- 15 (2) Identification of the barriers to implementing school-based influenza vaccination
16 programs and recommend strategies for removing such barriers; and
- 17 (3) An examination of the fiscal impact to the state of school-based influenza vaccination
18 programs.