

Committee on Public Health
Bill Summary

Bill No. H2554

Title: *An Act relative to routine childhood immunizations*

Sponsor: Representative Andres X. Vargas

Committee: Public Health

Hearing Date: June 6, 2025

Similar Matters: S1557

Prior History: Refile of H604 of 23-24; referred to Education; discharged to Public Health; reported favorably and referred to HCF; no further action.

Reporting Deadline: August 5, 2025

Current Law:

- **M.G.L. Chapter 76 § 15** pertains to vaccination and immunization. Parents or guardians of children being admitted to school must submit a physician's certificate showing the child has been successfully immunized against diphtheria, pertussis, tetanus, measles, and poliomyelitis, among other communicable diseases as specified time to time by the Department of Public Health. Currently, a child may be exempted from this requirement if (i) a physician determines a child's health would be endangered by such immunizations or (ii) a parent or guardian states in writing that vaccination or immunization conflicts with their sincere religious beliefs.

Summary:

This legislation amends M.G.L. Chapter 76§15 to eliminate the religious vaccination exemption for children entering public, private, or charter K-12 schools in the Commonwealth. Additionally, these schools will be required to annually report to DPH on the total numbers of students who have been immunized and students who have received a medical exemption. DPH would make this information publicly available, provided that doing so will not result in the disclosure of personal information.