

HB 1226 -- Vaccinations for First Responders

Sponsor: Hubbard

This bill requires the Department of Health and Senior Services to offer a vaccination program for first responders who may be exposed to infectious diseases when deployed to disaster locations as a result of a bioterrorism event or a suspected bioterrorism event.

The bill lists the vaccinations that must be offered to first responders. Participation in the vaccination program is voluntary for some first responders, except responders identified by their employers who cannot safely perform their emergency responsibilities without the vaccination. The bill requires the recommendations of the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices of the Centers for Disease Control to be followed when screening first responders for contraindications to the vaccination. First responders will be exempt from vaccinations when medically contraindicated.

The department must give priority to first responders and persons exposed to biological agents if there is a shortage of a vaccine. Educational material regarding ways to prevent exposure must also be provided to first responders. The department may contract with other entities for the administration of vaccinations. The program will become effective upon receipt of federal funds.

The bill contains an emergency clause.