

HB 413 -- BIOTERRORISM VACCINATION PROGRAM

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 as a result of bioterrorism. At a minimum, the program must include vaccinations for smallpox, anthrax, and other vaccinations recommended by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices.

Participation in the vaccination program is voluntary, except for first responders identified by their employers as personnel who cannot safely perform their emergency responsibilities without the vaccination. The bill requires that the recommendations of the advisory committee 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.