

HS HCS HB 852 -- IMMUNIZATIONS (Holand)

This substitute contains provisions regarding immunizations.

Effective January 1, 2006, the substitute prohibits immunizations administered to children less than eight years old from containing mercury preservatives, including thimerosal. The Food and Drug Administration's designation of an immunization as "thimerosal free" or "trace only" will comply with requirements of the substitute. Other persons receiving immunizations that are not designated as "thimerosal free" or "trace only" are required to be informed that the immunization contains a mercury-based preservative.

Effective January 1, 2006, the substitute also requires insurers licensed in Missouri that provide coverage for immunizations on a fee schedule or a percentage reimbursement basis to reimburse for immunizations not containing mercury. This reimbursement must be at the same percentage rate of the usual and customary charges provided for immunizations containing mercury or other preservatives prior to January 1, 2006.

The Director of the Department of Health and Senior Services will be exempt from complying with the requirements of the substitute by providing documentation of an outbreak requiring a public vaccination program when a sufficient supply of vaccine that is mercury free is not available. Persons receiving an exempted immunization are required to be informed that it contains a mercury-based preservative. The duration of the exemption will be determined by the director. The documentation provided by the department is required to be submitted to the chairs of the committees in the House of Representatives and Senate whose jurisdiction is public health policy.

FISCAL NOTE: Estimated Cost on General Revenue Fund of Unknown in FY 2005, FY 2006, and FY 2007. Estimated Income on Other State Funds of \$8,000 in FY 2005, \$0 in FY 2006, and \$0 in FY 2007.