

HOUSE RESEARCH

Bill Summary

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Authors: Brod and others

Subject: Prohibition of Mercury Compounds in Vaccines

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Overview

This bill prohibits the use of vaccines containing mercury or mercury compounds with some exceptions.

Section

- 1 **Disclosure required.** Amends § 121A.15, subd. 3a. Strengthens immunization related requirements of the commissioner of health by replacing the term "will" with "shall" and removes the requirement that the commissioner encourage health care providers to use thimerosal-free vaccines when available. Adds a requirement that immunization providers comply with section 145.929.
- 2 **Elimination of mercury in vaccines.** Establishes the Minnesota Elimination of Mercury in Vaccines Act of 2005.

Subd. 1. Elimination of mercury. Paragraph (a) prohibits vaccines administered in Minnesota from containing mercury or mercury compounds, including thimerosal effective July 1, 2005, unless:

- a mercury-free vaccine is not manufactured;
- a mercury-free vaccine is not obtainable by utilizing best efforts because the vaccine is not on the market for sale;

Paragraph (b) states that if a mercury-free vaccine is not available for the reasons

Section

stated in paragraph (a), then a vaccine containing a trace amount of mercury (as defined by the United States Food and Drug Administration) may be administered. If neither a mercury-free vaccine nor a vaccine containing a trace amount of mercury is available, then the vaccine with the least amount of mercury may be administered.

3 **Effective date.** States that sections 1 and 2 are effective July 1, 2005.