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**THE OFFICIAL GAZETTE — 21ST SEPTEMBER, 1974
LEGAL SUPPLEMENT — C**

PARLIAMENT OFFICE,
Public Buildings,
Georgetown,
Guyana,

19th September, 1974,

The following Bills which will be introduced in the National Assembly are published for general information.

M. B. Henry,
Deputy Clerk of the National Assembly.



GUYANA

BILL No. 29 of 1974

PUBLIC HEALTH (SCHOOL CHILDREN) IMMUNISATION BILL 1974

ARRANGEMENT OF SECTIONS

SECTION

1. Short title and commencement.
2. Interpretation.
3. Production of certificate of immunisation before admission to school or day-care centre.
4. Powers of the Minister.
5. Penalties.
6. Power to amend the schedule.
7. Regulations.
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SCHEDULE

A BILL

Intituled

AN ACT to make provision for the immunisation of persons seeking entry into schools and day-care centres against certain communicable diseases, and for other purposes connected therewith.

A.D. 1974 Enacted by the Parliament of Guyana:—

Short title and commencement.

1. This Act may be cited as the Public Health (School Children) Immunisation Act 1974, and shall come into operation on such date as the Minister may, by order, appoint.

Interpretation.

2. In this Act, unless the context otherwise requires —
“certificate of immunisation” means a certificate signed by a Health Officer certifying that the person named therein is immune from a communicable disease, that is to say, the person has —

(a) been inoculated with serum and has had a successful vaccination; or

(b) suffered from a communicable disease and acquired his own immunity;

Schedule

“communicable disease” means any disease specified in the schedule;

“day-care centre” means any premises, other than premises used mainly as a private dwelling, where children above the age of six months are received and taken care of for a day or part thereof;

“Health Officer” means a duly qualified medical practitioner registered under any law for the time being in force in Guyana and includes any person authorised by the Ministry to administer vaccines;

“parent” includes a guardian;

“school” means an establishment or institution established mainly for the purpose of providing education suitable for children who have attained the age of three years, but have not attained the age of eighteen years;

“Supervisor” means a person who is directly responsible for the management, control and supervision of a day-care centre

during the hours when children are admitted and cared for herein.

3. (1) Subject to subsection (2), no person shall be admitted to a school or day-care centre unless that person produces a certificate of immunisation to the Head Teacher or Principal of the school, or the Supervisor, as the case may be.

Production of certificate of immunisation before admission to school or day-care centre.

(2) If a person produces a certificate signed by a Health Officer certifying that immunisation against any communicable disease is not advisable on medical grounds, a certificate of immunisation shall not be required for the purpose of subsection (1).

(3) Where the production of a certificate of immunisation is not required with respect to a person by virtue of subsection (2), the Head Teacher or Principal of the school, or the Supervisor, as the case may be, shall enter the name of that person in a register kept for the purpose.

4. If any communicable disease becomes epidemic, or if an epidemic of any such disease is threatened the Minister may, notwithstanding the provisions of section 3 (2), by notice —

Powers of the Minister.

- (a) suspend persons whose names are recorded in the register in pursuance of section 3 (3) from attending any school or day-care centre; and
- (b) direct that admission to any school or day-care centre shall be refused to every person who does not comply with the provisions of section 3 (1).

5. Every Head Teacher or Principal of a school, and every Supervisor, who contravenes the provisions of —

Penalties

- (a) section 3 (1) or section 4 shall be liable on summary conviction to a fine of three hundred dollars;
- (b) section 3 (3) shall be liable on summary conviction to a fine of one hundred dollars.

6. The Minister may, by order, vary or amend the schedule or substitute a new schedule in place thereof.

Power to amend the schedule

Regulations. 7. The Minister may make Regulations for the purpose of carrying out the provisions of this Act.

This Act to prevail over Education Act
Cap. 39:01

8. This Act shall have effect notwithstanding anything to the contrary in the Education Act.

Section 2. SCHEDULE

B.C.G. (Calmet Guerin)
Diphtheria
Pertussis (Whooping Cough)
Poliomyelitis
Small Pox
Tetanus.

EXPLANATORY MEMORANDUM

New vaccines have been developed to immunise persons against fatal diseases. It is therefore desirable that in the national interest every person should be vaccinated against such diseases.

This Bill aims at ensuring that children are immunised against such fatal diseases before they enter schools and day-care centres, since the early years of life are the most crucial when preventative measures should be taken.

O. M. R. Harper,
Minister of Health.

(Bill No. 29/1974)
(H—7/3/1)