

Fiscal Note

BILL # HB 2472

TITLE: vaccinations; antibody titer testing; notification

SPONSOR: Barto

STATUS: As Introduced

PREPARED BY: Adam Golden

Description

The bill would require health professionals administering a vaccine to notify the person being immunized that they may instead request an antibody titer test to determine if they are already immune to the disease for which they would receive the vaccine. Additionally, the health professional would be required to notify the individual that there are no state requirements for immunization other than admission to public and private school and that there are exemptions to these requirements.

Estimated Impact

The bill is not expected to have a fiscal impact on Arizona Health Care Cost Containment System (AHCCCS) or state employee health insurance. While the bill requires health professionals to notify individuals of the antibody titer test option, there is no requirement that the state pays for the tests.

AHCCCS concurs that there would be no cost to the agency unless they were required to pay for additional tests. The agency estimates a state cost of up to \$4.9 million if they are required to cover all antibody titer tests.

Analysis

In lieu of receiving a vaccination, a person may first request an antibody titer test, which uses a blood sample to determine if the antibodies needed for immunity are already present. The bill would require health professionals to make an individual set to receive a vaccine aware of the option to request an antibody titer test. It would also require health professionals to notify such patients that there is currently no state law that requires vaccination other than admission of children to public and private schools and that there are exemptions to these school requirements.

The bill would not, however, make changes to AHCCCS or state employee health insurance coverage of costs for vaccines or antibody titer tests and would not require health professionals to order or administer such tests. As a result, we do not expect that the bill would have a material impact on health costs for AHCCCS enrollees or state employees.

AHCCCS concurred that the bill would have a \$0 impact. The agency also estimated that if it were required to cover the cost of all antibody titer tests for its enrollees, regardless of whether the test has been deemed medically necessary, there would be a state cost of up to \$4.9 million. Since the bill does not require AHCCCS to provide such coverage, the JLBC Staff does not believe these costs would materialize.

Local Government Impact

None

2/15/19