

## VACCINE INFORMATION SHARING

### LEGISLATOR NOTICE

The Legislative Services Division is required to offer a brief history on the subject matter of a bill draft request prior to drafting (5-4-105, MCA; [Chapter 309, Laws of 2017](#)). The history must include related legislation introduced over the last five sessions and hyperlinks to the bill, hearing information, and fiscal notes. The legislation links below open to the page showing the status and history of bills introduced on this topic in the past. The bill text and any related fiscal notes can be accessed through the link at the top of that page.

**Legislation can be complex, and this history is not intended to be exhaustive. Please contact the drafter of the requested bill for more information.**

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### Background Materials and Research

**Topic Summary:** The question of sharing information regarding a person's vaccination status has generated legislation to both easily allow sharing of the information and to prohibit its disclosure. Recent efforts have focused on ensuring that people don't have to share their vaccination status or certain immunization information. Other efforts have focused on an electronic database of immunization records known as "imMTrax."

The imMTrax database provides a centralized repository for healthcare providers to share immunization records so each patient can receive desired vaccinations on the recommended schedule and avoid duplicate vaccinations because of incomplete or inaccessible records. Currently, imMTrax is an "opt-in" system, meaning patients must agree to have their immunization information included in the database. In recent legislative sessions, bills have been introduced to change to an "opt-out" system, where patients would automatically be enrolled in the database unless they specifically asked not to be included. The bills have also addressed limitations on disclosure of the database information.

### Legislative Branch Materials:

- Legislative Audit Division: Performance Audit of Childhood Immunization Requirements in Montana
  - [Full Audit](#), May 2014
  - [Audit Summary](#), May 2014
  - [Audit Follow-Up Memo](#), September 2015

### Other Materials:

- [imMTrax Resources List](#), Department of Public Health and Human Services

## Introduced Legislation

**Please Note:** A status of "Chapter Number Assigned" means a bill was passed by the Legislature, approved by the governor, and became law.

### 2021

[House Bill No. 334](#) (Chapter Number Assigned) -- AN ACT REVISING LAWS RELATED TO THE MEDICAL EXEMPTION TO STUDENT IMMUNIZATION REQUIREMENTS; REVISING REQUIREMENTS FOR IMMUNIZATION FORMS; ESTABLISHING LIMITATIONS ON EXAMINATION AND USE OF IMMUNIZATION RECORDS; AMENDING SECTIONS 20-5-403, 20-5-405, 20-5-406, AND 20-5-408, MCA; AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

[House Bill No. 415](#) (Failed on Second Reading in the House) -- AN ACT PROHIBITING DISCRIMINATION BASED ON VACCINATION STATUS; PROHIBITING THE USE OF IMMUNITY PASSPORTS; AND PROVIDING AN IMMEDIATE EFFECTIVE DATE.

[House Bill No. 702](#) (Chapter Number Assigned) -- AN ACT PROHIBITING DISCRIMINATION BASED ON A PERSON'S VACCINATION STATUS OR POSSESSION OF AN IMMUNITY PASSPORT; PROVIDING AN EXCEPTION AND AN EXEMPTION; PROVIDING AN APPROPRIATION; AND PROVIDING EFFECTIVE DATES.

[House Bill No. 703](#) (Indefinitely Postponed on Second Reading in the Senate) -- AN ACT PROHIBITING THE USE OF VACCINATION STATUS OR IMMUNITY PASSPORT FOR CERTAIN PURPOSES; PROVIDING AN APPROPRIATION; AMENDING SECTIONS 13-1-116 AND 49-2-101, MCA; AND PROVIDING AN IMMEDIATE EFFECTIVE DATE.

### 2019

[House Bill No. 471](#) (Tabled in Senate Committee) -- AN ACT REQUIRING HEALTH CARE PROVIDERS TO OFFER PATIENTS THE OPPORTUNITY TO OPT IN TO THE STATE IMMUNIZATION INFORMATION SYSTEM; AND PROVIDING AN IMMEDIATE EFFECTIVE DATE.

[House Bill No. 596](#) (Tabled in Senate Committee) -- AN ACT ALLOWING LIMITED DISCLOSURE OF A PATIENT'S IMMUNIZATION RECORD WITH THE PATIENT'S AUTHORIZATION FOR THE PURPOSES OF THE STATE IMMUNIZATION INFORMATION SYSTEM; ALLOWING A PATIENT TO OPT OUT OF DISCLOSURE OF THE INFORMATION; AND AMENDING SECTIONS 50-16-530, 50-16-603, 50-16-605, AND 50-16-805, MCA.

### 2017

[House Bill No. 293](#) (Tabled in House Committee) -- AN ACT ALLOWING LIMITED DISCLOSURE OF A PATIENT'S IMMUNIZATION RECORD WITHOUT THE PATIENT'S AUTHORIZATION FOR THE PURPOSES OF THE STATE IMMUNIZATION INFORMATION SYSTEM; ALLOWING A PATIENT TO OPT OUT OF DISCLOSURE OF THE INFORMATION; AND AMENDING SECTIONS 50-16-530, 50-16-603, 50-16-605, AND 50-16-805, MCA.

### 2015

[House Bill No. 73](#) (Tabled in House Committee) -- AN ACT ALLOWING LIMITED DISCLOSURE OF A PATIENT'S IMMUNIZATION RECORD WITHOUT THE PATIENT'S AUTHORIZATION FOR THE PURPOSES OF THE STATE IMMUNIZATION INFORMATION SYSTEM; ALLOWING A PATIENT TO OPT OUT OF

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DISCLOSURE OF THE INFORMATION; AND AMENDING SECTIONS 50-16-530, 50-16-603, 50-16-605, AND 50-16-805, MCA.

### **2013**

[House Bill No. 479](#) (Tabled in House Committee) -- AN ACT ALLOWING RELEASE OF A PATIENT'S IMMUNIZATION RECORDS WITHOUT THE PATIENT'S CONSENT FOR USE IN RELATION TO THE STATE IMMUNIZATION INFORMATION SYSTEM; ALLOWING A PATIENT TO OPT OUT OF DISCLOSURE OF THE INFORMATION; AND AMENDING SECTIONS 50-16-530, 50-16-603, 50-16-605, AND 50-16-805, MCA.

**2011:** None

### **Last Updated By:**

Sue O'Connell, Research Analyst  
Legislative Services Division  
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