



STATE OF MARYLAND

DHMH

Maryland Department of Health and Mental Hygiene

201 W. Preston Street • Baltimore, Maryland 21201

Martin O'Malley, Governor – Anthony G. Brown, Lt. Governor – John M. Colmers, Secretary

The Honorable Martin O'Malley
Governor
100 State Circle
Annapolis, MD 21401

The Honorable Peter A. Hammen
Chair
Health and Government Operations Committee
House Office Building, Room 241
6 Bladen St.,
Annapolis, MD 21401

The Honorable Joan Carter Conway
Chair
Education, Health and Environmental Affairs Committee
Miller Senate Office Building, 2 West Wing
11 Bladen St.,
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Governor O'Malley, Chairman Hammen and Chairwoman Carter Conway:

The Statewide Advisory Commission on Immunizations (the Commission) is required to submit an annual report under Health-General Article §18-214(k) and in accordance with § 2-1246 of the State Government Article, to the Senate Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs Committee and the Health and Government Operations Committee on or before December 15th of each year.

As you may know, during legislative session 2010, HB 411 (Chapter 672) - Statewide Advisory Commission on Immunizations - Membership, Duties, and Sunset Repeal, was passed. The new law repeals the May 31, 2010 termination date for the Commission, and adds a consumer member and a pharmacist to the Commission. The Secretary of Health and Mental Hygiene, in consultation with MedChi, must appoint the chair of the Commission. The charge to the Commission has been adjusted to (1) require the Commission to study and make recommendations about immunizations required of children entering schools at any time, not just in the times of vaccine shortages; (2) make recommendations regarding a public education campaign in the event of a public health emergency involving immunizations; (3) assess the availability and affordability of adolescent vaccines; and (4) review additional information regarding immunizations. In addition, the term of a commission member is set at three years. The new law took effect June 1, 2010.

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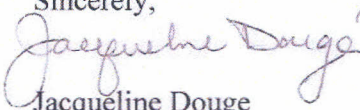
Web Site: www.dhmh.state.md.us

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Since the law took effect, the Department has worked closely with the Office of the Attorney General for continued clear interpretation of the language of the law. The Department has also worked with the Office of Executive Nominations to appoint members as required in the law. A packet of information was developed for potential appointees, and solicitations for appropriate members were sent out. The Chair of the Commission and the members have been nominated and confirmed. The first meeting of the new Commission took place December 7, 2010. The Commission will meet quarterly unless otherwise determined by the Chair and members.

This letter shall serve as the annual report for 2010. If you have any questions, please call Mr. Greg Reed, Program Manager, IDEHA Center for Immunization and lead staff to the Commission at 410-767-6679.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in purple ink that reads "Jacqueline Douge". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looped initial "J".

Jacqueline Douge
Chair of Commission

cc: Frances Phillips
Heather Hauck
Wynee Hawk
David Blythe
Greg Reed
Sarah Albert, MSAR # 8248