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**HOUSE BILL NO. 2189**

Offered January 13, 2025

Prefiled January 7, 2025

*A BILL to amend and reenact § 32.1-48 of the Code of Virginia, relating to immunizations; authority of the Commissioner of Health; religious exception.*

Patron—Freitas

Referred to Committee on Health and Human Services

**Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Virginia:**

**1. That § 32.1-48 of the Code of Virginia is amended and reenacted as follows:**

**§ 32.1-48. Powers of Commissioner in epidemic.**

A. Nothing in this article shall preclude the Commissioner from requiring immediate immunization of all persons in case of an epidemic of any disease of public health importance for which a vaccine exists other than (i) a person to whose health the administration of a vaccine would be detrimental as certified in writing by a physician licensed to practice medicine in ~~this~~ the Commonwealth or (ii) a person, including a parent or guardian on behalf of a child, who objects on the grounds that the administration of a vaccine conflicts with his religious tenets or practices.

B. In addition, the ~~State Health~~ Commissioner shall hold the powers conferred pursuant to Article 3.02 (§ 32.1-48.05 et seq.) of ~~this chapter~~ to issue orders of quarantine or prepare orders of isolation for a communicable disease of public health threat.

INTRODUCED

HB2189