

California bill targets doctors who sell fake vaccine medical exemptions

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A bill that targets doctors who sell fraudulent medical exemptions for



vaccinations was passed Tuesday by California's state Assembly.

The legislation would give state <u>public health officials</u> the power to investigate doctors who grant more than five <u>medical exemptions</u> in a year and schools with vaccination rates of less than 95 percent, the *Associated Press* reported.

After the 47-to-17 <u>vote</u>, Gov. Gavin Newsom's office said that he will seek additional amendments to the <u>bill</u>. The office said "there are a few pending technical—but important—changes to the bill that clarify the exemption and appeal process that have broad support," the *AP* reported.

Opponents of the bill claim it interferes with doctor-patient relationships, while supporters say too many vaccination exemptions reduce the "community immunity" that limits measles outbreaks. "This protection is being undermined by a handful of unscrupulous physicians who are profiting from putting children at risk and making our schools less safe," said Democratic Assemblywoman Lorena Gonzalez of San Diego, a principal coauthor of the bill, the *AP* reported.

More information: <u>AP News Article</u>

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