

STATE OF OKLAHOMA

2nd Session of the 47th Legislature (2000)

SENATE JOINT
RESOLUTION 45

By: Snyder

AS INTRODUCED

A Joint Resolution requiring testing of specified lots of anthrax vaccine, monitoring of short-term effects of vaccine usage, tracking of length of short-term reactions and long-term effects, and referral of personnel with specified reactions to the shot; prohibiting inoculation prior to specified certification; providing for noncodification; and declaring an emergency.

WHEREAS, in December of 1997, in response to a perceived increase in threats from rogue countries and terrorist organizations, the U. S. Secretary of Defense implemented a program to inoculate all 2,400,000 active and reserve military service members by 2003; and

WHEREAS, presently, the anthrax vaccination program consists of a six-shot series that is administered over a period of eighteen (18) months and is supplemented by annual booster shots; and

WHEREAS, testimony received during congressional hearings on the topic revealed that the adverse reaction rate to the anthrax vaccine is higher than that of other vaccines. A federal Food and Drug Administration inspection report revealed that the manufacturing process for anthrax is not validated; and

WHEREAS, constituent concerns about the anthrax vaccine center around the short-term safety of the vaccine, possible complications arising from its use, and the long-term health effects of the vaccine, especially given the information that has recently become available regarding the long-term and debilitating complications associated with the use of Agent Orange during the Vietnam Conflict.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE AND THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE 2ND SESSION OF THE 47TH OKLAHOMA LEGISLATURE:

SECTION 1. NEW LAW A new section of law not to be codified in the Oklahoma Statutes reads as follows:

Lots of anthrax vaccine used to inoculate Oklahoma National Guard personnel shall be tested for safety, sterility and potency by a lab that has been certified by the United States Food and Drug Administration.

A member of the Oklahoma National Guard shall not be inoculated with the anthrax vaccine unless and until the United States Food and Drug Administration certifies the vaccine for safety, sterility and potency.

The Oklahoma National Guard shall, in conjunction with the State Department of Health, utilize and put into effect the use of the Vaccine Adverse Event Reporting System (VAERS) program to monitor the short-term effect of the use of the anthrax vaccine on Oklahoma National Guard personnel and their families.

The Oklahoma National Guard shall also, in conjunction with the State Department of Health, develop a program that tracks the length of short-term reactions and that tracks the long-term effects of the vaccine on Oklahoma National Guard personnel and their families.

Any Oklahoma National Guard personnel reporting moderate to severe adverse reactions to the anthrax vaccine shall be referred to a competent allergist or neurologist for treatment and a determination as to whether any future shots should be given.

SECTION 2. It being immediately necessary for the preservation of the public peace, health and safety, an emergency is hereby declared to exist, by reason whereof this act shall take effect and be in full force from and after its passage and approval.