Subject: Health; public health; communicable disease; immunization

Statement of purpose: This bill proposes to extend the termination date of the immunization pilot program and remove the exemption from immunization on philosophical grounds.

An act relating to immunization exemptions and the immunization pilot program

It is hereby enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Vermont:

Sec. 1. 18 V.S.A. § 1122(a) is amended to read:

(a) A person may remain in school or in the child care facility without a required immunization:

* * *

(3) If the person, or in the case of a minor, the person’s parent or guardian, states in writing that the person, parent, or guardian has religious or philosophical convictions opposed to immunization.
Sec. 2. 18 V.S.A. § 1130(b)(1) is amended to read:

(b)(1) The department of health shall establish an immunization pilot program with the ultimate goal of ensuring universal access to vaccines for all Vermonters at no charge to the individual and to reduce the cost at which the state may purchase vaccines. The pilot program shall be in effect from January 1, 2010, through December 31, 2012. During the term of the pilot program, the department shall purchase, provide for the distribution of, and monitor the use of vaccines as provided for in this subsection and subsection (c) of this section. The cost of the vaccines and an administrative surcharge shall be reimbursed by health insurers as provided for in subsections (e) and (f) of this section.

Sec. 3. EFFECTIVE DATE

This act shall take effect on passage.