

1 State of Arkansas
2 93rd General Assembly
3 Regular Session, 2021
4
5 By: Senator C. Tucker
6

A Bill

SENATE BILL 477

For An Act To Be Entitled

8 AN ACT TO STREAMLINE CORONAVIRUS 2019 (COVID-19)
9 VACCINATION SIGN-UPS IN THE STATE OF ARKANSAS; TO
10 ENSURE ALL RESIDENTS OF ARKANSAS HAVE EQUAL,
11 EFFICIENT, AND ADEQUATE ACCESS TO CORONAVIRUS 2019
12 (COVID-19) VACCINATIONS; TO DECLARE AN EMERGENCY; AND
13 FOR OTHER PURPOSES.
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Subtitle

16 TO STREAMLINE CORONAVIRUS 2019 (COVID-19)
17 VACCINATION SIGN-UPS IN THE STATE OF
18 ARKANSAS; AND TO DECLARE AN EMERGENCY.
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22 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:
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24 SECTION 1. DO NOT CODIFY. TEMPORARY LANGUAGE. Streamlining
25 coronavirus 2019 (COVID-19) vaccination sign-ups.

26 (a) Notwithstanding any general or special law to the contrary, the
27 Department of Health shall immediately establish a centralized, one-stop
28 portal on its website to be used to determine eligibility and allow one-stop
29 online sign-up for coronavirus 2019 (COVID-19) vaccinations.

30 (b) The portal shall be made available to all residents of Arkansas
31 and shall be accessible via internet and mobile device.

32 (c)(1) The department shall also establish a centralized phone number
33 for residents of this state to determine eligibility, allow sign-up for
34 coronavirus 2019 (COVID-19) vaccinations, and ask questions regarding
35 vaccination eligibility and the vaccination sign-up process.

36 (2) The centralized phone number shall be staffed twenty-four



1 (24) hours per day, seven (7) days per week and shall include sufficient
2 staffing to prevent significant wait times for callers.

3 (d) The department shall, by any means practicable, including without
4 limitation text notification systems, share information about the portal and
5 centralized phone number with the general public.

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7 SECTION 2. EMERGENCY CLAUSE. It is found and determined by the
8 General Assembly of the State of Arkansas that the coronavirus 2019 (COVID-
9 19) pandemic has caused great uncertainty and anxiety across the state and
10 has significantly affected the residents of this state; that the roll-out of
11 the coronavirus 2019 (COVID-19) vaccine and sign-up process for the
12 coronavirus 2019 (COVID-19) vaccination has been complicated and has changed
13 several times since the vaccine became available; that residents of this
14 state need a streamlined system to sign-up for the coronavirus 2019 (COVID-
15 19) vaccination to ease their uncertainty and anxiety; and that this act is
16 immediately necessary to ensure all residents of this state have equal,
17 efficient, and adequate access to coronavirus 2019 (COVID-19) vaccinations.
18 Therefore, an emergency is declared to exist, and this act being immediately
19 necessary for the preservation of the public peace, health, and safety shall
20 become effective on:

21 (1) The date of its approval by the Governor;

22 (2) If the bill is neither approved nor vetoed by the Governor,
23 the expiration of the period of time during which the Governor may veto the
24 bill; or

25 (3) If the bill is vetoed by the Governor and the veto is
26 overridden, the date the last house overrides the veto.