

1 State of Arkansas
2 93rd General Assembly
3 Regular Session, 2021

A Bill

SENATE BILL 732

4
5 By: Senator B. Johnson

For An Act To Be Entitled

8 AN ACT TO PROHIBIT COERCION OF PERSONS TO RECEIVE THE
9 VACCINE OR IMMUNIZATION FOR CORONAVIRUS 2019 (COVID-
10 19); TO DECLARE AN EMERGENCY; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

Subtitle

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14 TO PROHIBIT COERCION OF PERSONS TO
15 RECEIVE THE VACCINE OR IMMUNIZATION FOR
16 CORONAVIRUS 2019 (COVID-19); AND TO
17 DECLARE AN EMERGENCY.

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20 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:

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22 SECTION 1. Arkansas Code Title 20, Chapter 7, Subchapter 1, is amended
23 to add an additional section to read as follows:

24 20-7-146. Prohibition on coercion for vaccine or immunization for
25 coronavirus 2019 (COVID-19) – Definitions.

26 (a) As used in this section:

27 (1) “Coerce” means:

28 (A) The use of physical violence, a threat, intimidation,
29 or retaliation with the purpose of causing a reasonable individual of
30 ordinary susceptibilities to acquiesce when the individual otherwise would
31 not;

32 (B) The conditioning of a private or public benefit,
33 including without limitation employment, promotion, or another employment
34 benefit, with the purpose of causing a reasonable individual of ordinary
35 susceptibilities to acquiesce when the individual otherwise would not; or

36 (C) The use of any other means with the purpose of causing



1 a reasonable individual of ordinary susceptibilities to acquiesce when the
2 individual otherwise would not;

3 (2) "Medically contraindicated" means the vaccine should not be
4 administered to an individual because of a condition that individual has that
5 will be detrimental to the individual's health if the individual receives the
6 vaccine; and

7 (3) "Person" means any natural person, corporation, firm,
8 partnership, limited partnership, trust, association, or any other legal or
9 commercial entity.

10 (b) A person shall not coerce another person to receive a vaccine or
11 immunization for coronavirus 2019 (COVID-19) if:

12 (1) The vaccine or immunization for coronavirus 2019 (COVID-19)
13 is medically contraindicated for the other person, as attested by a written
14 statement from a physician licensed to practice medicine in this state; or

15 (2) The other person objects to the vaccine or immunization for
16 coronavirus 2019 (COVID-19) on the grounds that the vaccine or immunization
17 for coronavirus 2019 (COVID-19) conflicts with the person's religious or
18 philosophical beliefs.

19 (c)(1) If an employer does not give consideration for the conditions
20 described in subdivision (b)(1) and (b)(2) of this section and takes punitive
21 action against an employee who requested the consideration, the employee may
22 seek lost wages.

23 (2) An employee who seeks lost wages under this section shall be
24 reimbursed comparable to unemployment benefits in this state through the
25 American Rescue Plan Act of 2021, Pub. L. 117-2.

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27 SECTION 2. EMERGENCY CLAUSE. It is found and determined by the
28 General Assembly of the State of Arkansas that employers and entities are
29 requiring or mandating vaccine or immunization for coronavirus 2019 (COVID-
30 19) for the citizens of Arkansas; that religious or philosophical beliefs
31 against the vaccine or immunization for coronavirus 2019 (COVID-19) are being
32 ignored across the state; that employers and entities are discriminating and
33 coercing the citizens of Arkansas to receive a vaccine or immunization for
34 coronavirus 2019 (COVID-19); and that this act is immediately necessary to
35 protect the citizens of Arkansas from discrimination and coercion for their
36 religious or philosophical beliefs against the vaccine or immunization for

1 coronavirus 2019 (COVID-19). Therefore, an emergency is declared to exist,
2 and this act being immediately necessary for the preservation of the public
3 peace, health, and safety shall become effective on:

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

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

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

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