

A RESOLUTION

24-617

IN THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

September 20, 2022

To declare the existence of an emergency with respect to amending the District of Columbia Government Comprehensive Merit Personnel Act of 1978 to allow the Chairman of the Council to take disciplinary action against Council employees for failure to comply with the Council COVID-19 Vaccination Policy.

RESOLVED, BY THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, That this resolution may be cited as the “Council Vaccination Policy Enforcement Emergency Declaration Resolution of 2022”.

Sec. 2. (a) The highest priority for the Council of the District of Columbia (“Council”) is providing a safe and healthy community for Council employees.

(b) COVID-19 continues to be a worldwide threat. Data from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and other national and local agencies shows that unvaccinated individuals continue to contract and transmit the disease, and suffer complications, up to and including death, at a substantially higher rate than vaccinated individuals.

(c) Vaccines are widely available across the Washington, D.C. region. Vaccines are approved for individuals ages 12 and up. Moreover, the Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine (also known as Comirnaty) is fully approved by the Food and Drug Administration (“FDA”), and the Moderna and Johnson & Johnson/Janssen vaccines are available under an FDA emergency use authorization.

(d) The Council established a mandatory COVID-19 vaccine policy for all Council employees, except for individuals with a religious or medical exemption, because immunization is critical to controlling the spread of the virus.

(e) The Comprehensive Merit Personnel Act of 1978 designates the Chairman of the Council as the personnel authority for all central office staff, and individual Councilmembers as the personnel authority for their personal and committee staff.

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(f) This legislation would continue to permit the Chairman of the Council to take disciplinary action against Council employees for failure to comply with the Council COVID-19 Vaccination Policy adopted by the Council in the event that the employee's personnel authority does not.

(g) This legislation would continue the authority to enforce the Council's vaccination policy originally adopted by the Council through emergency (D.C. Act 24-204) and temporary (D.C. Act 24-243) legislation last October.

Sec. 3. The Council of the District of Columbia determines that the circumstances enumerated in section 2 constitute emergency circumstances making it necessary that the Council Vaccination Policy Enforcement Amendment Act of 2022 be adopted after a single reading.

Sec. 4. This resolution shall take effect immediately.