

House Bill 1480

By: Representatives Gambill of the 15th, Scoggins of the 14th, Byrd of the 20th, and Kelley of the 16th

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

1 To amend Article 7 of Chapter 8 of Title 34 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated,
2 relating to employment security benefits, so as to provide eligibility for unemployment
3 benefits for voluntary separation from employment for certain immunocompromised
4 individuals and for individuals who choose not to undergo any employer mandated
5 COVID-19 vaccination as a condition of continued employment; to provide for a definition;
6 to provide for related matters; to provide for an effective date and applicability; to repeal
7 conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

8 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

9 **SECTION 1.**

10 Article 7 of Chapter 8 of Title 34 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to
11 employment security benefits, is amended by striking "or" at the end of division (1)(B)(i) and
12 adding two new divisions to subparagraph (1)(B) of Code Section 34-8-194, relating to
13 grounds for disqualification of benefits, to read as follows:

14 "(i.1) Due to his or her underlying health condition of being immunocompromised
15 as verified by reasonable documentation demonstrating that such health condition
16 caused the individual to reasonably believe that the claimant's continued employment

17 would put him or her especially at risk for severe illness or death from COVID-19.
18 As used in this division, the term 'COVID-19' means severe acute respiratory
19 syndrome coronavirus 2 (SARS-CoV-2), and any mutation or viral fragments thereof,
20 or any disease or condition caused by severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus
21 2 (SARS-CoV-2);
22 (i.2) Due to his or her refusal to undergo any employer mandated vaccination for
23 COVID-19, as such term is defined in division (i.1) of this subparagraph, as a
24 condition of continued employment; or"

25 **SECTION 2.**

26 This Act shall become effective on July 1, 2022, and shall apply to any claims for benefits
27 filed on or after such date.

28 **SECTION 3.**

29 All laws and parts of laws in conflict with this Act are repealed.