



State of Tennessee

PUBLIC CHAPTER NO. 384

SENATE BILL NO. 1573

By Bailey, Briggs, Jackson, Pody, Walley

Substituted for: House Bill No. 37

By Ogles, Griffey, Warner, Hulsey, Moody, Cochran, Leatherwood, Todd, Littleton, Smith, Terry,
Alexander, Tim Hicks

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 4; Title 5; Title 6; Title 7; Title 50, Chapter 1, Part 2; Title 58 and Title 68, relative to the right to work.

WHEREAS, it is the public policy of this state that each person has the right to work, and that each job in this state is essential to the wellbeing of this state's citizenry and the economy of this state; and

WHEREAS, it is the public policy of this state that there must not be two classifications of citizens in this state, those deemed essential workers and those deemed nonessential workers; now, therefore,

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE:

SECTION 1. Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 50, Chapter 1, Part 2, is amended by adding the following as a new section:

50-1-2____.

(a) This section shall be known as "The Essential Workers Act."

(b) Notwithstanding any law to the contrary, a local governmental entity or the executive head of a local government shall not, by executive order, ordinance, or resolution, create categories or classes of nonessential businesses, trades, professions, or industries for the purpose of suspending lawful commerce, encumbering trade, or denying citizens the right to work if such activities are otherwise lawful in this state, unless an explicit order of the local fire marshal or a court of competent jurisdiction declares that the business operating poses a clear and present danger to the citizenry of this state.


SECTION 2. This act takes effect upon becoming a law, the public welfare requiring it.

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PASSED: April 27, 2021

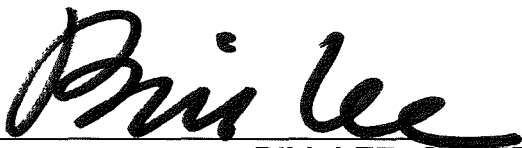


RANDY McNALLY
SPEAKER OF THE SENATE



CAMERON SEXTON, SPEAKER
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

APPROVED this 11th day of May 2021



BILL LEE, GOVERNOR