



State of Tennessee

PUBLIC CHAPTER NO. 930

HOUSE BILL NO. 1871

By Representatives Hulseley, Lynn, Sherrell, Weaver, Zachary, Russell, Williams, Boyd,
Jerry Sexton, Rudd, Lafferty, Reedy, Cepicky, Carr, Ragan

Substituted for: Senate Bill No. 1982

By Senators Hensley, Crowe, Niceley, Bowling, Stevens, White

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 4; Title 7; Title 8; Title 14; Title 50; Title 63 and Title 68, relative to COVID-19.

WHEREAS, the immune protection gained from a prior COVID-19 infection is at least as protective against COVID-19 as a COVID-19 vaccine; and

WHEREAS, there is, therefore, no rational basis to treat individuals who have had a previous COVID-19 infection differently than individuals who have received a COVID-19 vaccine; now, therefore,

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

SECTION 1. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 14-1-101, is amended by adding the following as a new subdivision:

() "Acquired immunity" means an acquired specific immune system response to the SARS-CoV-2 virus that is:

(A) Acquired naturally as a result of an individual's prior infection with SARS-CoV-2 virus; and

(B) Verified by:

(i) A letter from a licensed physician; or

(ii) Documentation of a laboratory test showing antibody, memory cell, or T cell immunity;

SECTION 2. Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 14, Chapter 2, Part 1, is amended by adding the following as a new section:

(a) A governmental entity, local education agency, or school shall not adopt or enforce a statute, ordinance, rule, policy, or practice arising from COVID-19 that:

(1) Fails to recognize acquired immunity as providing a level of immune protection that is at least as protective as a COVID-19 vaccine; or

(2) Treats individuals with acquired immunity differently than individuals who have received the COVID-19 vaccine.

(b) A private business shall not adopt or enforce a rule, policy, procedure, or practice arising from COVID-19 that:

(1) Fails to recognize acquired immunity as providing a level of immune protection that is at least as protective as a COVID-19 vaccine; or

(2) Treats individuals with acquired immunity differently than individuals who have received the COVID-19 vaccine.

SECTION 3. This act takes effect upon becoming a law, the public welfare requiring it.

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PASSED: April 11, 2022



CAMERON SEXTON, SPEAKER
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES



RANDY MCNALLY
SPEAKER OF THE SENATE

APPROVED this _____ day of _____ 2022

BILL LEE, GOVERNOR



BILL LEE
GOVERNOR
STATE OF TENNESSEE

April 29, 2022

The Honorable Randy McNally
Lieutenant Governor
425 Rep. John Lewis Way N., Suite 700
Nashville, TN 37243

The Honorable Cameron Sexton
Speaker, Tennessee House of Representatives
425 Rep. John Lewis Way N., Suite 600
Nashville, TN 37243

Dear Lieutenant Governor McNally and Speaker Sexton:

I write to inform you that I am letting SB 1982 / HB 1871 become law without my signature. Although I agree that individuals with acquired immunity should be treated the same as individuals who are vaccinated against COVID-19, this bill imposes a business mandate, and businesses should be allowed to operate without undue government interference.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Bill Lee".

Bill Lee