



State of Tennessee

PUBLIC CHAPTER NO. 513

HOUSE BILL NO. 13

By Representatives Hulseley, Griffey, Cepicky, Reedy, Weaver, Smith, Calfee, Hall, Rudd, Grills, Lafferty, Sherrell, Lynn, Zachary, Cochran, Bricken, Faison, Eldridge, Sparks, Tim Hicks, Warner, Hurt, Doggett, Todd, Moody, Keisling, Rudder, Alexander, Holsclaw

Substituted for: Senate Bill No. 187

By Senators Bowling, White, Bell, Pody, Stevens

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 4; Title 5; Title 6; Title 7; Title 8; Title 49; Title 50 and Title 68, relative to health.

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

SECTION 1. Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 68, Chapter 5, Part 1, is amended by adding the following as a new section:

The governor shall not issue an executive order, a state agency or department shall not promulgate a rule, and a political subdivision of this state shall not promulgate, adopt, or enforce an ordinance or resolution, that requires a person to receive an immunization, vaccination, or injection for the SARS-CoV-2 virus or any variant of the SARS-CoV-2 virus.

SECTION 2. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 49-6-5001(b)(2), is amended by deleting the language "In the absence of an epidemic or immediate threat of an epidemic, this section shall not apply" and substituting the language "Except as provided in subdivision (b)(3), in the absence of an epidemic or immediate threat of an epidemic, this section does not apply".

SECTION 3. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 49-6-5001(b), is amended by adding the following as a new subdivision:

(3) This section does not apply to an immunization, vaccination, or injection for the SARS-CoV-2 virus or any variant of the SARS-CoV-2 virus.

SECTION 4. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 68-2-603(f), is amended by deleting the language "In the absence of an epidemic or immediate threat of an epidemic, any person who shall file" and substituting the language "Except as provided in subsection (g), in the absence of an epidemic or immediate threat of an epidemic, any person who files".

SECTION 5. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 68-2-603, is amended by adding the following as a new subsection:

(g) This section does not apply to an immunization, vaccination, or injection for the SARS-CoV-2 virus or any variant of the SARS-CoV-2 virus.

SECTION 6. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 68-5-106, is amended by deleting subsection (a).

SECTION 7. Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 68, Chapter 5, Part 1, is amended by adding the following as a new section:

(a) A state agency or department shall not promulgate a rule, and a political subdivision of this state shall not promulgate, adopt, or enforce an ordinance or resolution, that requires medical treatment for those who object to the medical treatment on religious grounds or by right of conscience.

(b) As used in this section:

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(1) "Medical treatment" means an immunization, vaccination, or injection for the SARS-CoV-2 virus or any variant of the SARS-CoV-2 virus; and

(2) "Political subdivision":

(A) Means a local governmental entity, including a city, town, municipality, metropolitan government, county, utility district, school district, public building authority, housing authority, emergency communications district, county board of health, and development district created and existing pursuant to the laws of this state, or an instrumentality of government created by one (1) or more local governmental entities; and

(B) Does not include a governmental entity that is subject to a federal or state statute or rule that prohibits the entity from requiring medical treatment for those who object to the medical treatment on religious grounds or right of conscience.

(c) This section does not apply to a student of a public institution of higher education created pursuant to title 49, who is subject to the policies or rules of a private office that delivers healthcare services or of a healthcare facility, as defined in § 68-11-201, that is not owned or controlled by the public institution of higher education, when the student is participating in a program of study or fulfilling educational requirements for a program of study in:

- (1) Medicine;
- (2) Dentistry;
- (3) Pharmacy; or
- (4) Another healthcare profession.

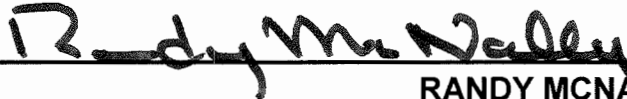
SECTION 8. This act takes effect upon becoming a law, the public welfare requiring it.

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PASSED: May 4, 2021



CAMERON SEXTON, SPEAKER
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES



RANDY MCNALLY
SPEAKER OF THE SENATE

APPROVED this 25th day of May 2021



BILL LEE, GOVERNOR