

2023 -- H 5916

LC001966

STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2023

A N A C T

RELATING TO HEALTH AND SAFETY -- COVID-19 VACCINATION MANDATE
PROHIBITED

Introduced By: Representatives J. Brien, Corvese, Cardillo, Place, Noret, and Phillips

Date Introduced: March 01, 2023

Referred To: House Judiciary

It is enacted by the General Assembly as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Title 23 of the General Laws entitled "HEALTH AND SAFETY" is hereby
2 amended by adding thereto the following chapter:

3 CHAPTER 99

4 COVID-19 IMMUNIZATION MANDATE PROHIBITED

5 **23-99-1. Short title.**

6 This chapter shall be known and may be cited as the "COVID-19 Immunization Mandate
7 Prohibited".

8 **23-99-2. COVID-19 immunization mandate by governmental entity prohibited.**

9 (a) No governmental entity shall implement, require or otherwise enforce a COVID-19
10 immunization mandate.

11 (b) For purposes of this section, a "governmental entity" means any executive, legislative,
12 judicial, regulatory, or administrative body of the state, or any political subdivision thereof;
13 including, but not limited to: any department, division, agency, commission, board, office, bureau,
14 authority; any school, fire, or water district, or other agency of Rhode Island state or local
15 government that exercises governmental functions; any authority as defined in § 42-35-1; or any
16 other public or private agency, person, partnership, corporation, or business entity acting on behalf
17 of and/or in place of any public agency.

18 **23-99-3. Complaint.**

1 (a) Any individual who believes that a governmental entity has violated the provisions of
2 §§ 23-99-2 or 23-99-4 may file a complaint with the office of the attorney general in the manner
3 prescribed by the office of the attorney general.

4 (b) The office of the attorney general shall investigate all complaints filed pursuant to
5 subsection (a) of this section. The office of the attorney general may also investigate any
6 governmental entity that the attorney general has reason to believe has violated §§ 23-99-2 or 23-
7 99-4.

8 (c) If the office of the attorney general determines that a violation of §§ 23-99-2 or 23-99-
9 4 has occurred, the office of the attorney general may issue a civil penalty against the governmental
10 entity in an amount not to exceed one thousand dollars (\$1,000) per violation payable to the
11 agrieved individual.

12 **23-99-4. Discrimination and civil or criminal penalties prohibited.**

13 A governmental entity shall not discriminate against any individual or issue a civil or
14 criminal penalty upon any individual for refusing any COVID-19 vaccination.

15 SECTION 2. This act shall take effect upon passage.

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EXPLANATION
BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL
OF

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RELATING TO HEALTH AND SAFETY -- COVID-19 VACCINATION MANDATE
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1 This act would prohibit any governmental entity from mandating the COVID-19
2 vaccination, or from discriminating against any individual or issuing a civil or criminal penalty
3 upon any individual for refusing any COVID-19 vaccination with enforcement by the attorney
4 general by way of a civil penalty payable to the individual.

5 This act would take effect upon passage.

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